Daily Report

Latin America

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IPU Uruguay Conference Issues Declaration

PY2210172590 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
21 Oct 90 p 9

[Text] Punta del Este—The Interparliamentary Union [IPU] conference has declared that the persistence of colonialism in all its forms is incompatible with the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The IPU declaration advocates the peoples' right to self determination and the freedom to decide their economic and cultural policies.

The conference of international legislators, which met in this summer resort, was presided by Uruguayan Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre. During the conference they also discussed the social, economic, and political situation of the world and agreed to seek greater cooperation among all nations to help reduce poverty, illiteracy, and all kinds of social discrimination.

The IPU declaration highlights the importance and the help that deliberations represent in the position against apartheid and its destructive effects in the Republic of South Africa; in the UN mediation in the West Sahara conflict, and in the acknowledgment that economic dependence is a form of colonialism.

Regarding the elimination of colonialism in all its forms, the declaration establishes the admission of Namibia to the United Nations and expresses its satisfaction over the elimination of apartheid, the release of Nelson Mandela, and the recognition of the African National Congress [sentence as published].

The new relations between Great Britain and Argentina were regarded with satisfaction and an appeal was made to the two countries to continue to try to reach a peaceful agreement regarding the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

Regional Conference on Environment Opens

FL2310153090 Bridgetown CANA in English
2235 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Oct 22, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on Monday said the Caribbean could be a barometer for measuring environmental concerns because of the region's vulnerability to ecological imbalances.

"...The environment of small island and coastal states is markedly more vulnerable to environmental imbalances than large continental states," he told the opening of a two-day Latin American and Caribbean ministerial conference on the environment here.

"Our countries have little room for mistakes and also little time to put mechanisms in place to protect our limited resources. We fully recognise the fact that we are a microcosm of the region, and any failure on our part to protect our environment would have detrimental effects in a short time."

Robinson said Latin America and the Caribbean had a strategic and leading role to play in forging a "new global ethic" for the use of natural resources, for equitable distribution of wealth, and for ensuring healthy and fulfilling lifestyles for future generations.

He said a balance between a desirable quality of life, population growth, and resource exploitation must be attained within the next century, "if life on earth, as we know it, is to be sustained."

"The task before us therefore entails a re-examination of human values of life and of the desirable quality of life," he said. "It requires a change in attitude to the environment. It requires an acknowledgement that air, water, and earth are all essential to life and that ongoing care and protection of these elements are necessary prerequisites for the survival of all life forms on planet earth."

He urged countries not to pay "lip service" to environmental issues but to make necessary decisions and devise options leading to the best solutions to environmental problems. "The environment is our main lifeline. We neglect it to our detriment and imperil as well the livelihood of generations to come," he said.

The 33 Caribbean and Latin American environment ministers are expected to adopt an environmental action plan as a common position for a global conference on the environment to be held in Brazil in 1992.

Cuba

Taxi Drivers To Be Reassigned to Agriculture

FL2310135690 Havana Tele Rebelde in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Beginning on 10 November, workers of the Havana City Provincial Taxi Enterprise will drive their cars for 15 days, and then work in agricultural activities for an equal period of time, an option opened to them by Resolution 251. This measure reflects the reduction of 2000 cars from the total fleet, with a consequent savings of over 30 tons of fuel daily.

Another option open to the drivers is reassignment to urban and other bus routes, thus making it possible to relocate all excess personnel.

Since the taxi enterprise now only obtains 35 and one-half tons of fuel it decided to eliminate trips to Havana Province from taxi stands on the outskirts of the capital, and reduce service to state organizations by 70 percent.

Other services such as trips to hospitals, bus, and air terminals, as well as home pickups, were beefed up.

One Dies, Over 24 Injured in Havana Explosion

PA2110024590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2115 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Havana, 20 Oct (NOTIMEX)—An explosion in the former La Cabana Fort here today left at least one person dead and over 24 wounded during a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the creation of the characters by Cuban cartoonist Elpidio Valdez.

The official news agency AIN [National News Agency] reported that the explosion took place this morning when a small colonial cannon went off at the former La Cabana Fort, where the ceremony was being held.

AIN added that one child died in the explosion and three others seriously injured were taken to a military hospital near Havana.

The Cuban Government immediately ordered a special commission to investigate the causes of the accident because it has not yet received the official report on the accident.

The former La Cabana Fort is part of the buildings located at the entrance of Havana Bay that was used by the Spaniards as a military fortress and is currently one of the main tourist attractions in Havana.

Castro Diaz-Balart Opens Nuclear Energy Course

FL2210211590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2048 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] At the Havana opening of the third course on current problems in nuclear science, Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart stated that in the past decade about 1,000 graduates from higher education have joined the ranks of Cuban specialists in that field. The executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission noted the extension of nuclear technology to various sectors such as food preservation, obtaining new varieties of plants, and industry.

He also said that the issue of how to generalize scientific and technological advances for the benefit of the poorest countries, so that they are not left out of the most recent achievements, occupies a central place among challenges facing humanity. Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart said that Cuba has created a scientific and technical foundation in the nuclear field and is capable of developing the necessary energy alternatives in the future.

The third course on current problems in nuclear science is the most important conference in this field in our country, and on this occasion is being attended by more than 300 Cuban and foreign delegates. Evelio Bello, the president of the event's organizing committee, explained that 23 professors invited from Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Spain, and other nations will give lectures on the latest advances in this field. He announced that during the course, roundtables on subjects of great importance—such as the production of nuclear equipment for medicine, drugs, marked compounds, and safety at nuclear facilities—will also be held. The third course on current problems in nuclear science will be held for over five days at the Higher Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology in Havana.

General Batista Receives TV Anniversary Award

FL2310125490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Many activities marking the 40th anniversary of the installation of television in Cubaare are taking place here. The 28th September Award was bestowed on a group of prominent information workers to mark the anniversary. The Seal of the 30th Anniversary of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] was awarded to nine journalists of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute for their support of the organization's activities.

Finally, Division General Sixto Batista Santana received a coin commemorating the anniversary of Cuban television from Enrique Roman, president of the ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television]. The commemorative coin was also granted to Conrado Martinez, president of the INDER [National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation], at the INDER headquarters.

During the ceremony, the two presidents mentioned the fruitful cooperation that exists between the two organizations.

* Payment of Unmerited Salaries Criticized

91p40015A Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 6 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] If we were as zealous about guarding state resources as we are with our personal resources then there would not be blunders like those detected in a recent inspection by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security (CETSS).

Although the issue of improper salaries may seem like a thing of the past, the inspection carried out in 244 enterprises in various sectors throughout the country detected some 1,383 violations of this type with excessive payments on the order of 27,000 pesos per month.

One only has to calculate what this represents for the state in terms of unjustified expenditures during one year—324,000 pesos—to confirm the damaging effect of this lack of responsibility in a country facing such a difficult economic situation. There are already considerable sums in circulation in the population without the equivalent in consumer goods and services.

What is going on in the world of enterprises and entities supported by the Cuban budget, if this is any indication?

Even worse is the pernicious moral cost of receiving undeserved income. This is demonstated by the violations found in the case of the technicians who were investigated: assigning positions (after application of the General Salary Reform) when beneficiaries had not fulfilled the requirements to hold the positions; salary adjustments without a corresponding evaluation of the job performance; evaluations which lacked the necessary quality and depth; and incorrect handling of salaries of recent graduates, among other things.

With regard to supervisors, payments of the maximum salary were discovered in these groups—in the absence of the necessary prerequisites, and other incorrect applications, the same as among workers.

The factors which most favored such transgressions were: the absence of persons to rate the qualifications for positions; the lack of stability among personnel in charge of directing and controlling these activities; failure to review the labor record before placing, or receiving the transfer of technicians and supervisors; and the lack of coordination and support of the remaining areas of the enterprises with that of Human Resources.

Although the report of the inspection group noted an improvement with respect to 1989 (not a single violation was detected in 63 of the centers visited) we feel that last year cannot be used as a gauge. The demands should be in line with the particular economic situation—which is much more serious—that Cuba is facing today and which cannot allow such an injustifiable drain of monetary resources.

* US Immigration Policy Toward Cuba Criticized

91p40017A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 31 Aug 90 pp 46-49

[Editorial Report] The 31 August issue of the Spanish-language magazine BOHEMIA, published in Havana, carries an article on pages 46-49 which discusses shifts in U.S. immigration policy and criticizes the current policy towards the immigration of Cubans.

Cuban policy on emigration has been more open than that of any other socialist country based on the principle that the construction of socialism is voluntary, according to the article.

U.S. restrictions are named as the principal obstacle to increased immigration of Cubans to the United States. This situation has caused migratory pressures to build on the island until they are released like an "escape valve." These migratory cycles have politicized the immigration flow. It notes that between 1977-80 the Carter administration reduced the number of visas to a minimum which led to the accumulation of requests for exit permits; thus, "in 1980, in view of U.S. inflexibility, the government of Cuba resorted to opening the port of Mariel through which 125,000 persons left."

The 1984 U.S.-Cuban immigration accords sought to achieve the "normalization of immigration procedures between both countries." The Cuban government's main objective in these accords was to "eliminate the circumstances which, for 20 years, had led to irregularities and political manuevering by the United States with regard to the migratory potential of Cuba." One of the United States' objectives in this agreement was to prevent another Mariel exodus.

The United States, however, has not lived up to the spirt of the accords and has reduced the number of visas issued, according to the article.

In closing the article states: "It can be affirmed that Cuban emigration policy—although not perfect—has responded to the spirit and letter of the immigration agreements with the United States and, in general, to a more articulated and integral concept based on the principle that citizens remain in the country on a voluntary basis. If those Cuban citizens who want to leave are not doing so, this is due, today, to the rigidity of U.S. policy, and not because they lack the permission of the government of Cuba. If Cuban policy is not more normal, this is due to the abnormal circumstances of relations between the two countries as a result of U.S. immigration practices. This time it is not for lack of an appropriate mechanism for regulating and controlling the flow of immigrants; rather, it is a practice which aims to use the migratory potential as a destabilizing factor. As in the past, such a practice can only lead to the closing of political alternatives and the search for unilateral solutions which would in no way benefit either party."

* 70 Million Pesos for 1990 Petroleum Development

91p40018 Havana BASTION in Spanish 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] (AIN) The Petroleum Union has invested nearly 36 million pesos so far this year to develop that industry in the western and central eastern zones of the country, and in Varadero and Pinar del Rio.

Appropriations for the purpose of preparing deposits and for ocean exploration and drilling exceed 70 million pesos for this year.

Empresa Occidente investments surpass 19 million pesos. This is for the purpose of guaranteeing support infrastructure for production.

It is also undertaking technological projects, with a view towards extraction, treatment and recovery of dry materials, crude and gas, in addition to smaller social construction projects.

The same objectives—but directed towards Varadero and Cardenas—are forseen in the center's investments which totaled 18.5 million pesos at the end of August. This is 64 percent of what was planned. During this period, 1,337,000 pesos were spent in the Cardenas Bay for a new project whose objective is to guarantee petroleum exploration in that zone, explained Rolando Barrero, investment specialist with the Petroleum Union.

He added that the principal project of that zone is the construction of an ocean platform which will allow direct drilling in the ocean.

Barrero stressed that of the nine million, eight was for equipment from the Soviet Union, and this has not been received as anticipated this year.

He added that petroleum development also included ocean exploration and the expansion and modernization of the computation center of the National Geophysics Enterprise, activities which required more than 5,439,000 pesos over a period of eight months, 69 percent of what was planned.

'Friends of Cuba Alliance' Formed in Nicaragua

FL2210123990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] The Friends of Cuba Alliance has been established in Managua by hundreds of Nicaraguan writers, artists, and painters in tribute to the day of Cuban culture. Fernando Silva, a poet and Sandinist deputy, read the document establishing this new solidarity organization which, he said, will be indissolubly united to Cuba no matter what government is in power in Nicaragua at any time in its history.

Silva then turned the document over to Cuban Ambassador to Nicaragua Fernando Ravelo, who expressed appreciation of the formation of this alliance on a date that is so significant for Cuban culture.

Light Industry Minister Meets PRC Delegation

FL2210214090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Light Industry Minister Eddy Fernandez Boada, a member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, has met today in Havana with his PRC counterpart, Zeng Xianlin, and the delegation accompanying him. Both ministers expressed interest in carrying out joint production in various types of industries. They also stated that the Chinese delegation's visit will make it possible to establish a program of cooperation between the two ministries.

Ethiopian Health Official Praises Assistance

FL2210200190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] (Otachef Padese), Ethiopian vice minister of health, today emphasized in Addis Ababa the contribution that Cuba has made by its cooperation in the search for solutions to that African country's aid and economic development problems.

At the closing ceremony of a Cuban-Ethiopian scientific conference, (Padese) praised the work of Cuban professionals and technicians over the past 15 years. He said that the presence of hundreds of Cuban volunteers in that territory has contributed to the country's economic and social development.

At the final session, Orlando Echevarria, economic adviser at the Cuban Embassy in the Ethiopian capital, noted that since 1977, many Cubans have traveled to the most remote regions of that African country and have extended assistance in the most varied projects.

At the scientific conference, 28 research papers were delivered on veterinary medicine, agriculture, hydraulics, and other sciences.

Media Official Comments on OIRT Memebership

FL2210193390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Cuba was elected today as a member of the bureau of the International Radio and Television Organization [OIRT] in the first working session of the 74th meeting of the Intervision Council in the Solidarity Hall of the Habana Libre Hotel here in Havana. Anteno Uno interviewed Juan Hernandez Diaz, vice president the ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television], a delegate to this event.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez Diaz] Well, there must be some speculation about the future of the OIRT. Perhaps many people have been hasty about defining its destiny, or else they have predicted that destiny as being very close at hand. Actually, we are gathered together to seek solutions, to determine what path the organization will take, what principles, bases, or formula it will use, and to what point previous decisions will be renewed.

This is definitely a crucial moment, one in which the organization must set the bases for the near future as regards its maintenance, development, and change. In sum, that is the debate that is on the agenda.

[Reporter] In this special moment, or what I would call the present circumstances, what is the importance of Cuba again being a member of the bureau?

[Hernandez Diaz] Well, I believe that all the member countries, no matter what kind of changes are taking place domestically, see Cuba and Cuban television as a desirable member of the bureau. Perhaps this is because relations with Cuba have been very close, and because of the prestige that Cuba has earned within the organization throughout the years, with the various representatives that it has had.

Cuba has definitely played an active role in the OIRT. It was the first country on this continent that communicated with Europe through this path, and our presence has always been felt in the organization. [end recording]

Bermuda

Labor Minister Resigns; Cultural Affairs Shifted

FL2310215590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2139 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Oct 23, CANA—Bermuda's Labour and Home Affairs Minister Irving Pearman resigned Tuesday, citing family health concerns for his decision to step down from the cabinet post he has held for the past two years. Pearman, 63 years old and managing director of a Hamilton car dealership, said in his resignation letter to Premier Sir John Swan he was pleased that during his term of office positive steps had been taken to improve industrial relations in Bermuda.

Pearman, a politician for the past nine years, said he would continue as a backbench parliamentarian for the ruling United Bermuda Party in Warwick East. He joined the Senate (upper house) in 1981 and two years later won a seat in the House of Assembly. He became tourism minister in 1984.

Meanwhile the premier announced on Tuesday that responsibility for cultural affairs, libraries and archives has been transferred from Education and Culture Minister Gerald Simons to Minister of Community Affairs Leonard Gibbons. Sir John said the transfer of responsibilities ensured a closer relationship between community affairs and the further development of the island's culture and heritage, areas in which Gibbons had a particularly keen interest. At the same time the change in portofolio responsibilities would enable Simons to concentrate fully on the restructuring of Bermuda's education system.

Dominican Republic

Exiled Leader Predicts Balaguer Overthrow

PM2410094990 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 11 Oct 90 p 20

[Luis Salas report: "Popular Uprising Is Imminent"]

[Text] Madrid—"The Balaguer government's economic debacle has now spread to the political sphere. To the utter poverty there is now added public unrest. I would not be surprised if there were a "poblada" (popular uprising) against the current government in the Dominican Republic."

This was said by Juan Bosch, a former Dominican president ousted from power by a U.S.-inspired coup in 1963 and loser in last May's presidential elections—elections which, he asserts, were fraudulent.

"This not just my personal opinion. Ask anybody in the republic. During the counting of the votes there was a power outage. Balaguer, who was well behind in the count, was in the lead as soon as the power returned. There he stays."

It is a preeminent place in the Dominican government which irritates and seems to infuriate Bosch, who at 80 years of age was in the limelight for half a century. Exiled in 1937 for his implacable championing of nationalism and democratic freedom, he attained the presidency in December 1962. It was a "seat" which he held for a really short time. Less than a year later, he was overthrown.

Unlike his rival, the indestructible Joaquin Balaguer; an 83-year-old, nearly blind, politician who is currently serving his third term, supported by an oligarchy which Bosch believes totals around half a million.

"They are 500,000 Dominicans who have made corruption and fraud the country's political nature. They prop up with their economic power this corrupt government which is indifferent to the real problems. They are Trujillo's heirs."

Asked whether he would place himself at the head of the political uprising which he predicts, he replied: "Why should I place myself at the head of it? Somebody else has already done so for me—Balaguer himself. Only his immediate departure from the presidency can save the republic."

One after another, Bosch's denunciations of Balaguer followed each other deliberately, in a tone closer to a statesman's language than to that of a district attorney carried away by conclusive evidence. A prestigious writer, the years of lectures and newspaper articles seem to have instilled in him a detachment in his words which contrasts with the vehemence of his thinking.

The founder in 1973 of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), the veteran left-wing leader has in Balaguer all the negative references he needs: "Over the past few

montas, the currency has been devalued by 350 percent, and power and water reach homes for only four hours a day. There is hardly any health care, education, or transport. There is a lack of employment. The government is concerned only about building useless monuments."

He continued: "Balaguer maintains that nothing else should be built by the government; the rest does not matter. His favorite saying is: 'Building is my life!' That is why his every effort is now focused on building a pharaonic tribute to Christopher Columbus; a lighthouse costing an extremely large sum at a time when lighthouses are not used anywhere in the world."

He added: "The consequence of this mistaken monetary policy is a galloping inflation which condemns the republic to an intolerable crisis. If this is not corrected immediately, the country, which already faces an economic situation worse than during the Trujillo era, will be in complete chaos. I repeat that I consider a popular uprising to be inevitable." "Nevertheless," he stated, "it will not be an organized force."

Without saying so, he is formulating a more peaceful remedy to relieve his Caribbean republic's fever. "Nobody in my party belongs to the oligarchy. It can be joined only from the universities and educational institutions. Balaguer is putting an end to the scant middle class which was left, and it is only possible to put the country on its feet by means of capitalism on the basis of this class, which I represent."

This is an opinion which his fellow countrymen seemed to share, judging by the opinion polls prior to the May elections. "The fraud was as obvious as the public's willingness to allow themselves to be bribed by some people in my country. The Electoral Board members, appointed by the government, falsified the certificates of election. Balaguer represents 10 percent of the population. The other 90 percent are opposed to him. The countdown to the uprising has begun."

However, "uprising" is a word which brings back sad memories for him. "Times have changed. The United States is no longer the economic power that it was when it overthrew me, and its simplistic analysis of Central America—Kennedy's view that any left-wing leader was a potential new Castro—has collapsed.

"We expect nothing, either good or bad, of the United States. Our hope is pinned on the new Europe—that of German unification."

Juan Bosch returned repeatedly to this point. "The EC," he murmured, rubbing his hands, "will quickly become the West's leading economic power, and it will be an example to follow. My party is pro-European and modern.

"If we attain power, we will reduce the money in circulation and explain to the people that money in itself is not wealth. In our sugar-rich country women must stand in line for hours in order to to buy it. Nothing works. Balaguer is to blame."

Deputy Claims Force Needed To Remove Balaguer

FL2310171390 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1008 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Deputy Jose Blanche of San Pedro de Macoris said that Dr. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez's [president of the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD] proposal to resolve the national crisis is interesting. He indicated, however, that it will not be accepted by President Joaquin Balaguer. Blanche described Balaguer as a stubborn man who does not accept good advice and proposals made to him.

The deputy said that there is no reason to think that the president will accept proposals for solving the national crisis.

[Begin Blanche recording] In that regard, we believe that Dr. Balaguer will not even consider that proposal unless Dominican society and all its component sectors rise up, or form a broad front to confront the crisis and force Dr. Balaguer to accept it. Otherwise, Dr. Balaguer will only leave the government the masses or the forces that make up Dominican society force him out. [end recording]

Labor Group Sets Deadline for Plebiscite

FL2310194390 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0935 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Collective of Popular Organizations has given the government a 10-day deadline to schedule a national plebiscite for the people to reject or accept President Balaguer. In making an announcement to this effect, Ramon Almanzar, spokesman for the collective, said that if the government fails to schedule and carry out the plebiscite, the people themselves will ask the president to resign.

[Begin Almanzar recording, in progress] ...national plebiscite, for the people to tell Dr. Joaquin Balaguer whether or not they want him to remain in government, and whether they want the president, vice president, and the entire cabinet to resign.

The collective, effective right now, is giving the government a deadline until 1 November to make the decision to prepare for the plebiscite, a plebiscite in which we are sure the people will tell Dr. Joaquin Balaguer that he must leave the government. [end recording]

Ramon Almanzar added that if the government does not agree to a plebiscite within 10 days, the Dominican people and the collective will stage a 5-day strike.

[Begin Almanzar recording] If the government, within the 10-day period that begins today and ends on 1 November, fails to accept our proposal, on Friday, 2 November, we will announce to the country the date of a general 5-day strike, a strike that will then serve as a plebiscite. The people, along with the most important

organizations in the country, will show the president, the cabinet, and the vice president, that the people do not want them in the government. Thus, the plebiscite that the president refuses to hold will be carried out by the people and the collective and all the organizations to which we will present this proposal. [end recording]

UPA Accuses PRD Leader of Backing Balaguer

FL2310181690 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1023 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Union [UPA] has rejected the proposal made by Dr. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez [president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD] to keep President Balaguer in power while merely changing government officials.

Dr. Ignacio Rodriguez said that the PRD president has declared himself to be a defender of the government by the position that he has taken. He added that when he places himself on Dr. Balaguer's side, Pena Gomez is thinking of 1994. Rodriguez said that by taking that position, the PRD leader has turned his back on his party's rank and file.

[Begin Rodriguez recording, in progress]...make a proposal that by every light, and with our power of analysis, can be seen to have a single objective: to preserve the imperialist economic model that has been imposed on our homeland, and to keep Balaguer in power. This is what Pena Gomez's proposal amounts to.

Our position is that no solution is possible with Balaguer in power, especially if we maintain the economic model that U.S. imperialism has imposed on our homeland. Pena Gomez in his proposal defends tourism, the free zone, and the exporting of agricultural products. Even though he is clamoring for an improvement in the countryside, we know that his position runs completely contrary to raising our agricultural production to levels that permit exports along with domestic self-sufficiency.

The destruction that we have seen in the countryside is definitely the fruit, the direct result of the economic model that the imperialists have imposed on our country. [end recording]

Food Shortages, Price Hikes Reported in Capital

FL2310173790 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] During the past several days, shortages of basic products have worsened in the capital's main trade establishments. Some of the daily food items that were not available, as of yesterday, in Santo Domingo are cod, herring, bread, chicken, flour, salt, and chocolate. Shortage of such items as cornmeal, canned goods was also reported. Other items, including different kinds of sugar and other food products, have been scarce for past several months.

A price increase on some basic items, such as rice, green beans, and cooking oil took effect yesterday. A pound of ordinary rice, which could be previously purchased for 3.50 pesos, was selling for 3.70 pesos. The price of kidney beans rose from 12.70 pesos to 13.[illegible]9 pesos, while a gallon of corn oil, which previously cost 80 pesos, was being sold at 93 pesos.

Airport Smuggling, Forging Operation Discovered

FL2310192790 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Authorities of the Las Americas International Airport have dismantled a ring that forged U.S. passports, residence cards, visas, and organized trips to Puerto Rico aboard cargo planes. The ring is comprised of 22 people. Its main leaders have been detained but their names have not been released. During a joint action conducted by officers of the Las Americas airport and immigration authorities, the ring was dismantled, and its main leaders were arrested.

It was reported that last week, authorities detained the last group of 17 people who the ring attempted to smuggle out of the country to Puerto Rico with U.S. passports, residence cards, and other forged documents.

Haiti

Update on Electoral Process, CEP Activities

FL2310194590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The electoral activities are moving forward toward December 16 which is D-day, polling day. Meanwhile, we are still faced with the security problem. Questions remain, although many steps are being taken, with many foreign observers visiting the country.

The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] is now analyzing the dossiers of presidential, senatorial, parliamentary, municipal, and Communal Section Administration Council candidates. This is the CEP's primary task this week, although many other activities continue.

The CEP had already received at least 23 [presidential] candidacy depositions by the end of Sunday, 21 October, the final date for candidacy depositions. They have been examining them since yesterday, 22 October in order to publish the list of accepted candidates by 6 November.

Among these candidates is Dr. Roger Lafontant, former interior minister under the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier. Other main contenders include: Mrs. Claudette Jacques, an independent candidate; Marc Louis Bazin, Louis Dejoie, Thomas Desulme, and Hubert de Ronceray, candidates from the center-right camp; Sylvio C. Claude and Leslie F. Manigat, Christian Democrats; Gregoire Eugene, Christian Socialist; Rene Theodore, Communist; Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide and two reverends of the moderate right, Jean Arnold Dumas, and

Richard Vladimir Jeanty. Besides Dr. Roger Lafontant, the Duvalieriest camp is also represented by former General Claude Raymond, and Dr. Volvick Remy Joseph.

Article 291 of the Constitution—approved by the people in March 1989—contains a provision prohibiting anyone, who encouraged or maintained the Duvalier regime; who committed crimes; or who plundered the public funds during the past 30 years, from holding any elective functions in the next 10 years. In several public declarations, the CEP has stressed that they will not be intimidated by any political group and that they will enforce Article 291 as necessary.

Well, the CEP continues its activities. The voters continue to register. The candidacy depositions ended last Sunday. This Friday will mark the end of [voter] registration.

CEP President Discusses Lafontant Candidacy

FL2310185090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Report on interview with Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] president, Jean Robert Sabalat by unidenitified reporter; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] On the issue of Dr. Roger Lafontant's candidacy, Jean Robert Sabalat explained that if Dr. Lafontant's documents are considered valid, he may retain his candidacy; otherwise he simply loses it. To the question of whether the presence of Lafontant on the political scene, or his participation in the elections, could impact citizen's willingness to participate, Sabalat stated that it is up to the electorate to decide, and maintained that Article 291 [which excludes macoutes from running for public office] of the Constitution will be respected.

[Begin Sabalat recording] It is up to the electorate to decide. The days to come will tell us how the electorate will react. We are here, as Provisional Electoral Council, to organize and direct free, honest, and democratic elections. [passage omitted] I do not see why the CEP would not take into consideration an article of the Constitution. [passage omitted].

This article was added after a plebiscite; what would people accuse us of if we had to put aside one of the Constitution's articles? When we were appointed, we were told that the entire Constitution was to be enforced; we have sworn on this Constitution. It is therefore clear that we cannot ignore an article of the Constitution to please, or to be indulgent, to certain categories. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Aristide Candidacy Boosts Voter Registration

FL2310140090 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] A popular former Roman Catholic priest has entered the race for the president of Haiti. The entry of Jean Pierre Aristide has caused a sudden increase in the number of voters registering. The former priest was active on the political scene in Haiti after former dictator Jean Claude Duvalier fled the country in February of 1986. He wants to stop the Duvalierists from gaining power. The priest Aristide has been very critical of the upper class and has openly criticized governments that came to power in Haiti since the dictatorship. He was relieved from his position as priest in 1988.

Manigat Addresses Problems, Election Issues

FL2410134090 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Twenty-six candidates have registered to vote [as heard] in the Haitian elections upcoming December 16th. One of them is former President Leslie Manigat. He was in power from February to June of 1988. Mr. Manigat held a news conference yesterday in Port-au-Prince in which he outlined Haiti's problems and said the only solution is free and fair elections. He was asked about his participation in the elections of 1988 which were alleged to have been rigged. Mr. Manigat said those elections were fair and that he was fairly elected.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Orders Probe of Threats Against UNC

FL2310161090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1513 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Oct 23, CANA—Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, who heads the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction [NAR], has ordered an inquiry into claims NAR members threatened to stone opposition supporters if they attended a conference in Tobago two weekends ago.

Public relations officer of the NAR, Lennox Raphael, told CANA that the general secretary Alloy Lequay is investigating the claim made by the United National Congress [UNC]. The congress said threats by NAR members had caused several persons to stay away from the conference. The threats were said to have been issued by four top officials of the NAR regional council in Tobago.

The UNC political leader, Basdeo Panday, demanded that Robinson "take action" to ensure that the incident does not happen again.

Salinas Urges U.S. To End Commercial Barriers

PA2310234990 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0203 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Report by correspondent Mariana Pliego]

[Text] Torreon, Coahuila State 19 Oct (NOTIMEX)—President Carlos Salinas de Gortari demanded here today that the United States reciprocate Mexico's commercial opening. He also demanded that all obstacles to Mexican exports to the United States be eliminated.

Despite the fact that Mexico has unilaterally opened its commercial border, it has not yet obtained "the benefits of reciprocity on the part of the United States," Salinas said during a meeting with local businessmen.

For that reason, he demanded the elimination of all administrative and customs obstacles faced by Mexican products on the U.S. market.

Referring to a free trade agreement between Mexico and the United States, Salinas expressed confidence that "the discretionary measures that have adversely affected Mexico" will end after the signing of the aforementioned treaty.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari called on Mexican businessmen to compete efficiently with the new economic blocs emerging in the world. He was addressing businessmen at the Torreon Country Club, and was accompanied by Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto, governor of Coahuila State.

Salinas placed particular stress on the need to diversify the Mexican economy. He pointed out that Mexico needs to enter into "intense and intelligent" negotiations with the United States, so that the free trade agreement does not create a "closed or inaccessible" area.

On the contrary, Salinas stressed, the commercial area should be open to the exchange of goods in order to benefit Mexico and Latin America.

Meanwhile, the Mexican Government will continue its modernization process to strengthen and consolidate its commercial opening, he stated. Salinas explained that this process will continue because Mexicans want a government which respects its citizens, promotes citizens' participation, and responds to its obligations to maintain public order.

After this meeting, Salinas concluded his visit to the State of Coahuila, where he made specific commitments to promote the development of the state.

El Salvador

Alleged FMLN Attack Kills Two Civilians

PA2410003590 Paris AFP in Spanish 2356 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Oct (AFP)—Two civilians were killed and two more were injured today as the result of a dynamite attack perpetrated by unidentified individuals near the Army Joint Staff headquarters in the western part of San Salvador, government sources have reported.

Colonel Mauricio Vargas, Deputy Chief of the Army Joint Staff, attributed the attack, perpetrated at 1700 (2300 GMT) in the capital's western sector, to the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Vargas, who visited the place to check the damage, told the local radio station Radio Cadena YSU that the event "is an attack against the human rights of the civilians."

Chief of Staff Condemns Attack

PA2410020790 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0042 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, Armed Forces joint chief of staff, this afternoon condemned the attack presumably perpetrated by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] urban commandos in the San Francisco neighborhood. The attack claimed the lives of two minors: Natalia Salazar, 9; and Gerardo Salazar, 18. Col. Vargas said that despite irrational actions like these, which generate distrust within the government, the official dialogue commission—of which he is a member—is optimistic about the forthcoming round of negotiations scheduled for 4 November in Mexico.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] Two minors were killed [words indistinct]. We are seeking a path of peace [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Vargas] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] Colonel, what effect will this have on the negotiations process? They have attempted to hinder the negotiations process. Will the talks be blocked?

[Vargas] I believe that distrust between the sides will increase [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Vargas, who is a member of the government's dialogue commission representing the military sector, today visited the [word indistinct] street in San Francisco, near the Armed Forces Joint General Staff, where the two explosive devices exploded and destroyed a private home. According to information we received, the devices were hurled with catapults and because of a miscalculation they hit the home in question, killing two people and wounding several others.

FMLN Stages Sabotage Actions 18 Oct

PA2310163290 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Oct 90 p 54

[Text] Spokesmen for the Armed Forces have reported that the war against the electricity pylons continued last night in several areas of the capital.

The attacks took place in the Tres de Mayo neighborhood, Toluca Street, Sierra Nevada, and other areas on the outskirts of San Salvador, where civilians panicked.

Military authorities and electricity workers rushed to the area to repair the damage.

The military spokesmen said that as usual 99.5 percent of the damage done affects the people, who suffered an extensive power outage.

Spokesmen for the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission [CEL] reported that FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists also attacked the Soyopango steam plant.

The CEL report adds that this is another terrorist action by the FMLN against nonmilitary targets.

The official report condemns the violent actions by the FMLN, as it is aware it is directly harming the Salvadoran people.

Coprefa Reports Seizure From Underground Hideout

PA2310194890 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Troops of the Armed Forces Engineers Military Detachment seized a surface-to-air SAM-7 missile during a search near the Pineda canton on the outskirts of Zacatecoluca.

The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] released the information on 19 October and explained that the find was made when soldiers detected an FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] underground hideout in that sector of La Paz Department. The spokesman said that the rebel group had apparently abandoned the hideout some time ago and, since then, it had gone unnoticed until the aforementioned troops found it.

The spokesman said that the find and subsequent seizure had great value because this kind of weapon has great destructive power and the capability of nullifying aerial actions.

He said that large amounts of component material for the production of explosives were found in the same hideout. The spokesman said that the FMLN has been using these explosives to destroy utility poles and towers, thus hurting the national economy, as well as the civilian population by destroying their homes and food, which needs refrigeration, and inflicting diverse wounds on them.

The same source said that the Cavalry Regiment reported the find of another "tatu" [underground guerrilla hideout] near the Las Marias ranch in the Colon Jurisdiction, La Libertad Department.

He added that eight fragmentation grenades, several TNT blocks, clips with ammunition, and material for producing explosive artifacts were seized there.

FMLN's Roca Calls for End to 'Militarism'

PA2310165090 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 15 Oct 90 p 7

[Part two of two-part interview with Commander Francisco Jovel (Roberto Roca), member of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the FMLN; place and date not given]

[Text] [Roca] The only thing they have managed to achieve by revamping their strategy has been to prevent the dictatorship's army from collapsing even sooner. Events have proven, however, that they were unable to achieve their main strategic goal of destroying the main bodies of the guerrilla units and reducing them to pockets of resistance. They had planned, especially along the Honduran border, to destroy these pockets of resistance, as they had said, like fish in a barrel. This was a very important period for the FMLN because we had begun operations, after overcoming the latest obstacles—let us call them that—which affect the FMLN's necessary consolidation. The FMLN had not only overcome its organic disarray of the 1970's, it had also overcome its ideological differences. The FMLN increased its political initiative, although in 1980 and 1981 we proposed a political, not a military solution to the United States.

We made our first basic proposal in 1981. That proposal, however, underwent a period of modification and debates on unifying the guerrillas' military strategy. By 1984, the proposal for a negotiated solution had been so strengthened and consolidated that it forced the United States to accept the first meeting in La Palma with President Duarte in October 1984. If we make an objective analysis, we can see that the government was not in control of the situation. The government was unable to offset the political proposal made by the guerrilla forces.

[Reporter] What have 10 years of war meant for the country?

[Roca] We believe that these 10 years of war in El Salvador have shown the world that El Salvador is ready to exercise its right to sovereignty. Any attempt to deny our people that sacred right will surely lead to confrontations at all levels. During these 10 years, the FMLN, as the main popular organization in the vanguard of the Salvadorans' struggle, has considerably matured politically and has structured a proposal befitting Salvadoran history and reality.

We will soon issue a proclamation to the nation summarizing those truly Salvadoran principles for which the FMLN is struggling. The sectors that have been ruling the country—the oligarchs, the capitalists, and the military—must realize that El Salvador of the future, can not be like El Salvador of the past. They must realize that the military dictatorship has to be dismantled and that we must begin a new era in a truly democratic country devoid of militarism. It is not enough, however, for these sectors to realize this; it is essential that the United States realize this. It must use all of its political capacity, its position as an international power, to favor democratic change in El Salvador.

We start from the premise that a truly democratic and demilitarized El Salvador is not a threat to any country, nor to U.S. military security, much less to the other Central American countries. We believe that 10 years of struggle have proven the Salvadoran people's legitimate right and that they have the capacity to defend themselves and to win.

[Reporter] It is being said that the peaceful changes in Eastern Europe have caused armed struggle to be discarded.

[Roca] The issue cannot be discarded just like that. We must go back to its roots. The legitimacy of the armed struggle must be analyzed in each specific case. We can say this: an armed conflict never arises without profound causes that allow it to emerge and exist. If they are artificial, they are usually short-lived. Our war, however, has lasted 10 years. There is still war in El Salvador due to profound political, economic, and social causes, and a Salvadoran reality that exists even after 60 years.

The military struggle by popular forces in El Salvador has been the answer to the militarist attitude of those who have been in power and the sectors who have supported them. That is why we say that for the people's armed struggle—as a last alternative—to defend their rights and to fight for what they have, it is imperative that the United States and its allies dispose of their warmongering attitudes. The peoples armed struggle is their reply to this predominantly military situation. That is why we say that the United States needs its own unique perestroyka. The great political and social tension that existed in Eastern Europe has been overcome. The USSR's attitude has allowed these countries to solve their problems as they see fit, without going to war. Most of these countries have made their changes without war. Ceausescu's case was the exception.

Even the USSR is trying to give political characteristics to changes in nationalist feelings. We do not, however, see a similar situation in the United States. We believe that the United States is reading the signs badly. The United States believes that now, more than ever, it must play the role of international gendarme. The U.S. Government and the powerful political sectors should understand that a drastic change in foreign policy is indispensable in preventing the Third World from resorting to armed struggle.

If we study the possible consequences of the Middle East conflict, the great problems caused by the foreign debt, and the incapacity of the neo-liberal systems to solve the problems of our peoples, we will see that we are faced with a melting pot of tremendous political and military conflicts. There is something no one can deny—the Third World is not going to starve. That is why we believe that armed struggle is the order of the day in the Third World. This can only change if there are changes in the present political and economic order. The United States and the other great powers are responsible for that situation. That is our opinion.

[Reporter] Who in the process has time on their side? Maybe the conflict itself?

[Roca] This question must be considered from two points of view. From a human, subjective view, time helps no one. It only contributes toward lengthening the war and the suffering of our people. We favor a quick solution; not any solution, certainly, but one that will make possible establishing a government in which social justice and respect for human rights prevail and political democracy works. From the tactical and military point of view, we do not think time will affect the guerrillas. U.S. and Salvadoran Army strategists have reached the wrong conclusion that, because of the Sandinists defeat in Nicaragua, the Eastern European situation, and the increasing blockade against Cuba, time is running short for the Salvadoran revolutionaries. These strategists entertain the illusion that the guerrillas in El Salvador will be out of breath in one or two years.

This hope has been crushed in El Salvador. We say that the guerrillas have an energy of their own and can continue to fight for an indefinite period. We have the capacity to manufacture our own armaments with materials the government is unable to control. We have our own sources of supply, some of which are in the United States itself. The quantity of uncontrolled armaments in Central America alone is so large and the FMLN's organizational level is so great that this virtually guarantees our ability to wage war for as long as necessary. We do not believe that time is working for the government. The protracted war situation undoubtedly renders the country ungovernable and every economic plan is doomed.

One year into Arena's [National Republican Alliance] term, the government is thinking that what was not attained in one year might be attained in two years. We believe this is wishful thinking. If the war situation persists, no economic plan can succeed in two, three, four, or more years. This is why, after studying the war situation, we think the wise and correct move would be to find a short-term formula for political resolution of the conflict.

Finance Ministry Workers Strike, List Demands

PA2310233790 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Passages in italics are recorded]

[Text] On 22 October Finance Ministry employees began a strike which will last for an indefinite period of time. They are demanding a response as soon as possible to their list of demands, which include a 200 colones salary increase and a 1,000 colones Christmas bonus. Here is Carlos Luna, vice president of AGEMHA [General Association of Finance Ministry Employees]:

[Luna] *The main reason for staging this strike is the refusal of the ministry officials to give us a favorable and specific answer to our demands.*

According to Luna, the employees have held over 30 meetings with Finance Ministry officials, yet they have only received promises for the last 16 months. According to the labor leaders, the list of demands that was presented has already been extensively negotiated with the ministry officials; therefore, they decided on 22 October to strike.

[Luna] *We are demanding a 200 colones salary increase, a Christmas bonus of no less than 1,000 colones, and the establishment of a medical clinic for our families. We also want all workers—permanent, contract, or temporary—to receive the benefits of the minimum wage law. We are demanding higher per diem fees and higher life insurance benefits.*

Not a single office in the Finance Ministry main building was operating in the morning of 22 October. According to AGEMHA members, the employees are not acting under pressure but out of conviction.

[Luna] *Each and everyone of the workers has decided to strike. We firmly believe that we need to have a medical clinic for our families.*

The labor leaders announced that 10 more departments of the Finance Ministry in San Salvador and Finance Ministry employees in other departments of the country have joined the strike.

Guatemala

Government Invites Foreign Election Observers

PA2310161890 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Oct 90 p 18

[Text] Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias has reported that the Foreign Ministry has invited two observers from each of the countries that has relations with Guatemala to witness the free election process slated for 11 November.

The minister added that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal is in charge of coordinating the international observers.

The intention is to offer facilties for them to move around unhindered in the capital and in the countryside.

Rivera Irias said that he has asked for the diplomatic missions to report as soon as possible the names of the election observers. Among the organizations that have also been invited are the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the OAS, the Order of Malta, and the UN Human Rights Commission.

Morales Denies Amnesty 'Death Squads' Claim

PA2210225190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1752 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Government Minister General Carlos Morales Villatoro today denied the existence of "death squads" in Guatemala. He did say, however, that there are gangs of criminals who operate outside the law.

A mission of Amnesty International (AI) reported on 19 October that most of the killings which take place in Guatemala "are perpetrated by death squad members who are recruited from the security forces."

Minister Morales Villatoro, however, refuted the AI report and said: "Groups of murderers exist, but they are not members of the security forces."

The AI mission charged police with human rights violations but stated that there is not as much violence in Guatemala as during the military administrations.

Gen. Morales Villatoro pointed out that "there are no death squads" in Guatemala, as was reported by the AI mission that visited the country last week to study the human rights situation.

Attorney General's Assistant on Report

PA2410003690 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Cesar Alvarez Guadamuz, the attorney general's assistant for human rights issues, stressed yesterday: "I have never said that the police, the Army, and the civilian self-defense patrols are responsible for the 240 nonjudicial executions carried out in the country so far this year, as claimed by a report issued by representatives of Amnesty International."

Alvarez Guadamuz said that he has never met or made any statements to representatives of Amnesty International.

He explained: "Last week, representatives of that organization, which defends human rights, went to the Attorney General's Office of Statistics and requested a detailed report on the number of nonjudicial executions that had been recorded thus far this year."

Three members of the human rights group Amnesty International are in Guatemala gathering information on an increase in human rights violations in our country. They are Brazilian Rodolfo Konder, Uruguayan Francisco Jose Ottonelli, and British citizen Tracy Ultveit Moe.

MLN Leader Warns Against Abusing Members

PA2310225490 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 19 Oct 90 p 12

[Text] Arturo Ortiz Saenz de Tejada, president of the National Liberation Movement [MLN] political council, said yesterday that "the MLN will no longer tolerate the defamation of Mario Sandoval Alarcon's family name, and we hereby warn that we are fed up with those abuses."

Ortiz Saenz de Tejada was referring to Wednesday night's armed conflict involving Fernando Sandoval, son of Sandoval Alarcon, and the son of another deputy. Ortiz Saenz de Tejada added that "there have been other such incidents in the past four weeks."

The MLN leader added that it is noteworthy that a few days ago Humberto Gonzalez Gamarra, leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Union, was murdered and that two days ago, there was an attempt on the life of Sandoval Madrazo. The MLN leader added that these "crooked actions were meant to cause polarization in the pre-election period, which leads us to suspect who is responsible for these actions."

Ortiz added that "we were also surprised to learn yesterday that one of the attackers, who had been wounded in the leg, had died. We are going to look into this matter to determine whether he died of asphyxiation from the hood that he had put over his head or from other causes not related to the bullet wound."

The president of the MLN political council said that on at least four different occasions, vehicles transporting party members, leaders, and candidates for official party business in the interior of the country have been stopped by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG]. They were stopped once in Peten Department, three times in Suchitepequez, and once in Quiche Department. The last time a party vehicle was stopped was in the Ixil triangle, when the party's presidential candidate talked with the commander of the rebel group. The rebel commander recognized Colonel Luis Ernesto Sosa Avila and told him that the URNG will abide by the El Escorial Pact and that the rebels only have problems with the Army.

This, Ortiz said, is confirmation that we cannot blame the rebels for the attacks on members of the MLN; therefore, we are suspicious of the government sector and the other political parties.

Nicaragua

FSLN Directorate Position on National Dialogue

PA2310202090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1835 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Communique issued by the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the conference room of the FSLN Secretariat in Managua—live; read by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra]

[Text] From the FSLN National Directorate to the Nicaraguan people:

Nicaraguan brothers:

The national dialogue process convened by the government began 34 days ago with the participation of workers and businessmen from the cities and rural areas. We have expressed our concern over the deterioration of the economic crisis which causes more suffering, hunger, and unemployment among workers and the poorest sectors of the Nicaraguan society. Tension in rural areas has resulted in dozens of dead and wounded and widespread insecurity regarding land ownership. The vengeful policy has resulted in dead and wounded in the cities. The occupants of lots in poor neighborhoods are being threatened with eviction. In the same manner, residents of houses and community homes in city neighborhoods are threatened with being dislodged. Private and social property has been damaged and destroyed.

There are various forms of violence. It is expressed in various ways. The crime rate has escalated. The first cases of looting and terrorist actions have occurred. We condemn all those actions, which create chaos and anarchy in the country.

Nicaragua needs immediate action to guarantee minimum stability so that the country will not sink into new outbreaks of violence. The FSLN urges all forces participating in the national dialogue to show maturity, flexibility, and social awareness to immediately reach firm agreements, compliance with which must be guaranteed. I repeat: The FSLN urges all forces participating in the national dialogue to show maturity, flexibility, and social awareness to immediately reach firm agreements, compliance with which must be guaranteed.

The FSLN supports the creation of the National Agrarian Commission and demands that it immediately resolve the land distribution problems that affect thousands of peasants; agricultural workers; cooperatives; enterprises; small, medium-sized, and large producers; displaced persons and war refugees; and peasants who abandoned counterrevolutionary activities. The FSLN demands extraordinary actions to help the brothers in the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast, who are also suffering the effects of the crisis, with special programs.

The Nicaraguan people demand a real reconciliation. Government, political, labor, professional, and religious leaders must contribute toward eradicating the hatred and revenge promoted by a war imposed by foreign aggression. Thirty-four days after the national dialogue began, the Nicaraguan people expect agreements to protect the right to work of all Nicaraguans, secure financial assistance for producers, and guarantee social services.

The Nicaraguan people also expect a reaffirmation of the demand for indemnification that the U.S. Government must pay in accordance with the ruling of the International Court of Justice. The FSLN National Directorate and the Sandinist militants, together with the Nicaraguan people, once again assume the historical challenge of strengthening the process of peace and stability to face the political, economic, and social crisis the entire nation is suffering today.

Yes to reconciliation, no to revenge!

Sandino lives, the struggle continues!

Free fatherland or death!

FSLN National Directorate

Managua, 23 October 1990.

FNT Issues Economic Proposal to Government

PA2210171590 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Oct 90 p 3

["Proposal" issued by the National Workers Front (FNT) in Managua on 17 October]

[Text] The FNT does not consider the imposition of an economic adjustment plan, designed to strictly comply with IMF and U.S. Government guidelines, to be viable, instead of gradually putting the economy on a sound footing without increasing the burden of the crisis placed upon worker and popular sectors.

We believe that an economic emergency plan—which takes into consideration the postwar situation and the grave crisis, and which helps to achieve social stability—is urgently needed for the sake of the country and all Nicaraguans. The plan must particularly consider and resolve the following:

Social Services and Protection

1. Grant enough and timely financing to guarantee agricultural export and basic grain harvests. In addition, fulfill the pledge to carry out an emergency plan to rehabilitate and reactivate industry, construction, and small enterprises, thus guaranteeing more than 29,000 workers jobs.

2. Increase the health budget ($12 million per month) to guarantee services to the people at the beginning of the year. Also, maintain the 23,610 health worker positions that exist as of 25 April, and guarantee the positions of 2,000 health workers who will graduate next year. This budget will guarantee correct compliance with the

national labor agreement signed with the health sector, travel expenses, and the proposed reclassification of positions.

Protection programs for (social) groups must be guaranteed, including free medicine for social security beneficiaries, mothers, and children; supplementary nutrition programs in zones that have a high rate of malnutrition or that have been affected by drought; and support for retired and sick employees in the form of full salaries. In sum, all social programs must be part of an overall economic program rather than be established individually.

3. Readjust the education budget to guarantee the current number of education workers, create posts for new graduates from teachers training colleges and the Education Sciences School, provide free services to scholarship holders, register 200,000 children who currently have no access to a school, increase the annual number of students, and improve the education centers pedagogical situations.

The budget must guarantee compliance with the collective agreement signed with ANDEN-MED [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers-Ministry of Education] and guarantee training programs, professionalization courses, the reclassification of posts, and the proposed salary adjustment, taking into consideration the cost of a 53-product basic basket, the complexity of a post, and the employee's professional qualification, seniority, experience, and efficiency in carrying out his responsibilities.

Inflation and Salary

4. It is necessary to establish preferential public service tariffs for the lower-income sectors of the population.

5. The government must:

—Maintain the fiscal deficit reduction at its current level (from 28 million to 6 million gold cordobas) to avoid creating, with a major reduction, a higher unemployment percentage.

—Implement emergency employment programs for the country's 500,000 unemployed.

—Emphasize the deficit reduction by increasing fiscal revenue, which is achieved by reactivating production, not by restricting expenditures, because this causes more unemployment and reduces salaries.

—Organize and carry out an emergency austerity plan regarding the consumption of oil and oil by-products.

—Cancel appropriations for superfluous expenses, and fight the squandering of funds and corruption.

6. The government must fulfill its pledge to establish a minimum salary that allows the people to purchase the 53-product basic basket and to adjust salaries based on the increase in the price of the basic basket. The government must also reclassify tasks based on the complexity of the post and worker experience, until the salaries of specialists are on a par with those earned by new government officials.

APP [People's Ownership Sector] and Fiscal Policy

7. The country's thousands of businessmen must not continue to be burdened with exaggerated taxes, because this causes bankruptcy and recession, and it increases unemployment.

8. The FNT reasserts that the APP belongs to the workers, and it will uncompromisingly defend the economic rights and social achievements of the working class.

9. The FNT believes that, given the technological setbacks and high costs created by the economic measures (Nicaragua is the most expensive country in Latin America), our production sector must be protected and not subject to irrational competition, otherwise every production initiative will be discouraged, thus causing more unemployment and recession.

Hyperinflation and Currency Unification

10. A basic factor of the hyperinflation in Nicaragua is the circulation of three currencies; therefore, only the gold cordoba must circulate, even if it does not maintain a fictitious parity with the dollar.

11. We demand that the government fulfill the specific pledges that it assumed on 3 October, as provisions for our participation in the national dialogue.

12. The FNT advocates respect for the Constitution and the creation of a National Agrarian Reform Commission as the legal framework to resolve the social unrest that prevails in the countryside, and to find solutions to other problems.

No to the Unemployment Plan

13. The FNT supports the Nicaraguan people's right to have land and dignified homes, and it demands that the government fulfill its pledge to provide houses for journalists.

14. The FNT strongly rejects the unemployment plan (occupational conversion plan) proposed by the government, the policy toward private banks and foreign trade, and all the measures designed to leave national industries without protection.

The FNT, on behalf of its thousands of members, issues an appeal to the government, urging it to seriously and responsibly discuss this proposal; and not to cause its credibility to further deteriorate with maneuvers, including a false consensus in the national dialogue, and the failure to abide by the agreements signed with the FNT.

For employment and salaries: Not a single step back!

National Workers Front

CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers], ATC [Association of Agricultural Workers], ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Workers], Fetsalud [Federation of Health Workers], UNE [National Union of Employees], UPN [Union of Nicaraguan Journalists], Conapro-HYM [Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations].

Rejects Government's 'Stubborn Attitude'

PA2210140990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1203 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Communique issued by the National Workers Front (FNT) in Managua on 21 October]

[Text] The FNT hereby notifies its affiliates, the Nicaraguan people, and the national and the international press of the following:

1. The FNT flatly rejects the stubborn attitude of the government representatives who did not allow the reading of the FNT proposal— Nicaragua: Economic and Social National Dialogue—presented by the government on 18 October. The FNT proposal represents substantial progress toward the signing of the agreements, a basic goal of the Economic and Social National Dialogue.

2. Bearing in mind how important it is for the Nicaraguan people to reach agreements that will resolve the country's serious economic crisis, the government representatives should maintain an impartial attitude at all times. They must avoid any biased or vengeful attitudes that hinder the process toward achieving agreements.

3. The FNT accepts its responsibilities toward the Nicaraguan workers and people, and strongly urges the immediate signing of the agreements that will facilitate resolution of the most serious problems of the population, such as financing production, maintaining and creating sources of employment, resolving demands for land to prevent worsening the social problems in rural areas, improving the purchasing power of wage earners, and improving basic services for the population, such as health, education, water, electricity, transportation, and housing.

4. The FNT feels that under the present circumstances, the government is responsible for concluding the national dialogue by the middle of the week of 28 October, at the latest, and signing the agreements that will allow improving the living conditions of the Nicaraguan people and consolidating stability, social peace, and the democratic process that began on 19 July 1979.

5. The FNT ratifies its firm purpose of continuing the struggle on behalf of the workers and calls on all of its affiliates, labor unions, federations, confederations, associations of professionals, and the people in general to remain alert and ready to struggle.

For jobs and salaries: Not one step back!

[Signed] The FNT and its members: CST [Sandinist Workers Federation], ATC [Farm Workers Association], ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers], Fetsalud [Health Workers Federation], UNE [National Employees Union], UPN [Union of Nicaraguan Journalists], Conapro H Y M [Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Nicaraguan Professional Associations].

Francisco Mayorga on Banking Strike, Solutions

PA2310191690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Report on statement by Central Bank President Dr. Francisco Mayorga on 19 October; place not given]

[Text] Banks are working normally after management and the banking union federation signed an agreement guaranteeing labor stability, it was stated last night by Central Bank President Doctor Francisco Mayorga. During a meeting with journalists, Dr. Mayorga explained that the country overcame hyperinflation three weeks ago. Inflation continues, but it will tend to disappear in the coming months, he added.

The Central Bank president added that the Monday devaluations will be five percent or less because the national dialogue has resulted in an atmosphere of social peace, which allows for progress in the contacts between sectors and creates conditions so that the ordinary cordobas can be replaced by the gold cordoba. Mayorga also explained how the black market rate has dropped from 180 percent to 5 percent since the gold cordobas are on par with the dollar, and the latter is sold freely in the banks and exchange houses. Furthermore, Dr. Mayorga announced that all banks will operate normally today from 0800 to 1200 to serve the people and the workers who have yet to cash their checks.

[Begin Mayorga recording] The authorities of the financial system sector last night met with leaders of the banking union federation, led by Lino Area. They discussed the problems caused by the banking strikes; progress was achieved in the negotiations; and everything concluded in the early morning hours. The workers were guaranteed full labor stability, something which had been stated and confirmed throughout the discussions.

I would like to avail myself of the opportunity to insist on the fact that several media organs have been twisting things. Even some labor movement leaders have been misconstruing the position of the financial system's authorities. There will be no personnel reductions. The reduction of personnel in the country's financial system has never been mentioned. The labor stability of the financial system's personnel is guaranteed.

If the national dialogue supports the creation of private finance companies and banks, these private finance companies and banks will provide excellent job opportunities for many employees in the national finance system. This will allow the national finance system to

gradually reduce its excessive payroll without dismissing any national finance system employee. Instead, this will result in better job opportunities. I think it is important to emphasize this point.

Likewise, we reached an agreement in principle concerning the necessary salary adjustment for October. There was a dispute concerning the bimonthly payment, which undoubtedly represents a loss for the banking system employees. While the public sector employees, meaning the government employees, receive their pay during the first days of the month, the banking system employees receive it in two parts—one part every two weeks. This had to be compensated for, and we reached an agreement in principle. They said that it appeared acceptable and that they would consult their members.

Today they pledged to restore the normal operations of the entire banking system, and I understand that....[changes thought] The reports I have received so far indicate that there are no problems. The banks should be operating normally today. We hope that the agreement will be signed and that, from now on, relations between the banking union federation and management will be carried out according to the national dialogue principles, and within the principles of the agreement....[corrects himself] the agreements that have been signed between the government authorities and the National Workers Front, FNT. These agreements stress that a strike must not be called before exhausting a dialogue for a negotiated solution.

We believe that a definite solution to the salary problem is being found by establishing salaries in gold cordobas. Only the problem of job reclassification and the creation of a minimum salary in the financial system are still pending. This must be solved according to what the national dialogue decides about the minimum wage. We are, therefore, quite pleased to report that we have virtually managed to solve the bank strike problem.

During this news conference, I would like to take the opportunity to present our monthly report on the progress of the stabilization effort we have carried out. First, I want to report that after the progress made and our projections for the last two weeks of October, we anticipate a further reduction in the level of government spending in gold cordobas. Since April and May, tax collections have rebounded and they remain stable. We think that tax collections could remain unchanged or even improve. During the first two weeks of October, tax collections were adversely affected by the strike in the banking sector because taxpayers could not pay their taxes in the closed banks. We hope to return to a normal situation.

Consequently, the fiscal deficit which in April totalled $35 million—in the past it was only of $2 million a month—has been systematically reduced and we hope that it will be less than $10 million in October—that is, the fiscal deficit will decline to $8, $7, or perhaps $6.5 million in October.

The Central Bank's financing of the government has been rapidly decreasing. As you can see, the Central Bank provides $5 million in financing to the government, which is still a very large deficit and causes inflation. To eliminate inflation and devaluations, the fiscal deficit will have to be absolutely financed by foreign sources so that the Central Bank does not have to print money to finance it.

As a result, the prices of the family basket, which increased by 50 percent during the first weeks of the new administration, have gradually declined. As you can see, the level of inflation for the family basket has been a one-digit figure for five consecutive weeks—that is, weekly inflation has fluctuated between 5.5 and 6 percent for five consecutive weeks. [end recording]

Mayorga Discusses Dialogue, Inflation Rate

PA2410010890 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Interview with Central Bank President Francisco Mayorga by unidentified reporter in Managua on 21 October—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Do you think that big capital is really participating in the talks?

[Mayorga] I think that big capital as such does not exist in Nicaragua. Medium and small-scale producers control the productive activity. They are well represented by Cosep [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], as well as by UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] and Conapro [National Confederation of Professional Associations of Nicaragua]. So I think they are represented.

[Reporter] How do you feel about the fact that the FNT [National Workers Front] was not allowed to speak on 19 October?

[Mayorga] I think this was a procedural problem. First, I think FNT leader Lucio Jimenez should have been seated on the board of directors. He could have announced he wanted to read a document. He could have said: I would like to read this document that we wrote last night; I would like to be allowed 10 minutes to read it.

[Reporter] Do you think that, under the current circumstances, procedures like those do not help the national dialogue, or do they?

[Mayorga] Those are flaws in communications that we all have. I think there were flaws on one side, and also perhaps on the part of the rest of us who were there. This sort of incident should not happen. It makes it look like we are in a secondary-level school, not a place where we are trying to move the country forward.

[Reporter] A communique by the government states there will be flexibility in the foreign exchange policy, regarding the parity of the gold cordoba. Does this point to a shift in your policy?

[Mayorga] There is no shift. The communique represents the views of different sectors. The government stance is outlined in the structural stabilization program. We will be discussing it. Some sectors linked to the Sandinists are skeptical that we will be able to maintain parity with the U.S. dollar for a long time. The government, however, feels it can.

[Reporter] Do you really think that is possible?

[Mayorga] I do think it is possible if the stabilization and adjustment program is fully implemented. From 1912 to 1931 our currency was on a par with the U.S. dollar. The only reason that ended was because of the earthquake that destroyed Managua in March 1931. The exchange rate was fixed at seven cordobas to one dollar from 1950 to 1979—that is, for 29 years. That can be done with the correct economic policies, and it would be very good for the country's economic development.

[Reporter] Some of your critics say you do not really believe in the national dialogue. Is that true?

[Mayorga] That is totally false. Consensus is a prerequisite for making the economy move forward. If we do not reach an understanding and do not work in a spirit of national unity, Nicaragua cannot move ahead.

[Reporter] Your critics base their views on some documents that you have presented, which contradict talks that have been held earlier.

[Mayorga] I have not written any document. I do not have any knowledge...

[Reporter, interrupting] Some of your comments contradict the stance of Economy and Development Minister Dr. Silvio de Franco.

[Mayorga] There are no differences between Dr. de Franco and myself. I am chairing one of the commissions, and we reached a very high degree of consensus regarding a series of policies. We reached that consensus with the participation of groups like CONAPI [expansion unknown] and UNAG. That is why I think that everything to come out of the commissions will strengthen the sense of national unity we are trying to foster.

[Reporter] When will the dialogue begin to yield results? When will it begin to produce something? The people are waiting and waiting, and at some point may tire of waiting.

[Mayorga] I think the spirit of agreement is already yielding results. We have that thanks to the policies that are being implemented and to the existence of a climate of cooperation, to which the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] has made a positive contribution. The inflation rate has been going down, and for the past three weeks we have been controlling the hyperinflation rate. Although our inflation levels are still high, they may be eliminated in two or three more months, if we succeed in the talks.

[Reporter] Your critics also say that the achievement, which you mentioned here, also entails a big sacrifice for the people, regarding the true economic situation of the people.

[Mayorga] The biggest social cost a country can have is inflation. Inflation and devaluation constitute a terrible tax that punishes the neediest. These factors are disappearing, chiefly because of the way Nicaragua is making the adjustments, without any kind of reduction.

[Reporter] Is it true you threw the police at bank employees?

[Mayorga] That is totally false. The police were represented in all bank branches and in the Central Bank to protect public order while the strike lasted. Since there are demonstrations during strikes, the police must be there to avoid incidents. If there was any incident yesterday, you should ask the police chief what happened. I have no knowledge of that, and have no authority over the police.

[Reporter] Are you continuing the currency devaluations? What will happen Monday?

[Mayorga] As the inflation rate has been receding and has substantially dropped, tomorrow there will just be a five-percent devaluation. The exchange rate will be 1,470,000 [old cordobas to the dollar]. Henceforth, we hope each devaluation will be five percent or less, or that it will be less each time, until we totally do away with the headache of devaluation.

[Reporter] When will all the gold cordobas be issued? When are we to have all gold cordoba bills?

[Mayorga] Right now, 20 percent of the bills in circulation are gold cordobas.

[Reporter] When will it be 100 percent?

[Mayorga] When we eliminate the deficit. That depends on the consensus.

[Reporter] Will it be this year or the next?

[Mayorga] That depends on the consensus [words indistinct].

[Reporter] We hope that is so, because that is a headache for us. Thank you for being with us.

Agreement Signed; Bank Conflict Resolved

PA2410010690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Report on statement by bank workers federation representative Eduardo Solorzano; place and date not given]

[Text] The bank conflict has been resolved, and the banks are reopening for business today. Last night the problem that brought the nation's financial operations to a halt was resolved by means of an agreement that covers job stability, payment of salaries in gold cordobas, and a 14-percent

salary hike for 12,000 bank workers. Central Bank Director Dr. Francisco Mayorga, Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, and representatives from the bank workers federation signed the agreements, thus bringing service at the banks back to normal. Let us hear what Eduardo Solorzano of the bank workers federation has to say:

[Begin recording] [Solorzano] The confidence that the workers would like to have, through serious agreements, was achieved a few minutes ago thanks to the agreement signed with Dr. Mayorga and the other government officials who participated in the negotiations. Consequently, activity at the banks and throughout the national financial system will begin to go back to normal tomorrow. We believe that the bank workers federation has scored a success. This struggle, which lasted several days, clearly demonstrated to the government that the workers are willing to use the means at their disposal to ensure that their demands are heeded.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the main points of the agreement?

[Solorzano] First, we agreed on strict job stability: guaranteeing tenure and the nonapplication of Articles [figures indistinct] of the Banking Law. We reached an agreement to curb the firing of workers, and to correct an unusual situation that cropped up in September. We obtained an increase of 14 percent over and above the salaries paid in the first half of October. Additionally, we have signed a serious commitment with more responsible people, thanks to the workers who supported this strike. We also agreed to form a commission to review and follow up on a few pending issues in the first week of November, probably on 6 and 7 November, and managed to include on the agenda for discussion the plan to build up capital at the banks. [end recording]

INE Minister Explains Fuel Prices, Policy

PA2310170490 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] INE [Nicaraguan Energy Institute] Minister Emilio Rapaccioli today reported that the significant increase in the international oil prices has compelled the government to raise the prices of petroleum and its by-products. This oil price increase, basically due to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, is strongly affecting Central American countries. INE Minister Rapaccioli disclosed that oil expenditures, which amounted to $42 million, have doubled. If the price increase continues, Nicaragua will spend $170 million in crude per year.

[Begin Rapaccioli recording] The price of the fuel that Nicaragua purchases from Venezuela within the framework of a bilateral agreement—under conditions that are similar to those established in the San Jose Pact—has continued to increase. At the end of July, a barrel cost $17.68. Now it is $36.02. The government cannot absorb all of this increase by subsidizing it. We feel forced, just like other countries, to adjust fuel prices. [end recording]

A gallon of gasoline has risen to 2.35 gold cordobas. Diesel is now sold at 1.45; bunker fuel at 1; kerosene at 1.45; the 10-lb butane gas tank at 2.25; the 25-lb tank at 5.56; and the 100-lb tank at 22.24. These prices are more or less similar to those in the rest of Central America. Regarding the price of energy, Rapaccioli said that they will remain the same.

[Begin Rapaccioli recording] We have kept energy fixed at the same price since July. In other words, it is 0.04 per kwh. It remains the same in October. I cannot guarantee, however, that we will not change it if the price of the oil Nicaragua buys continues to rise. [end recording]

He added that no cuts are planned for people who are delinquent in their payments. He said that there are only 15,000 people in 65 Managua areas who are using the energy without paying for it. These people overload circuits, causing frequent blackouts.

For his part, Oscar Melendez of Petronic [Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprises] said that a rationing plan was begun for the state in September. According to this plan, a 25-percent cut in gasoline and its by-products was applied to the state and a 10-percent cut for consumers.

Old Cordoba Drops Approximately Five Percent

PA2210185690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Here we are: Another Monday, and yet another devaluation of the currency in Nicaragua. The Central Bank announced last night another devaluation of the old cordoba. The exchange rate set for the cordoba is now 1,470,000 old cordobas per U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate as well as the parallel exchange rate that is being applied at the money exchanges reflect a devaluation of approximately five percent. On the black market, however, the U.S. dollar is being sold today for 1,600,000 cordobas.

The price of oil byproducts will automatically be adjusted at the same rate as the devaluation of the old cordoba.

Former Contras Assault Puerto Cabezas Warehouse

PA2310204490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Oct 90 pp 1, 5

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Text] Leonel Pantin, coordinator of the regional North Atlantic Autonomous Government, told BARRICADA on 21 October that 1,400 former rebels on 18 October assaulted a shipment of clothing and food sent by the central government, which was stored at a Moravian Church warehouse. Pantin explained that due to the seriousness of the situation, the Interior Ministry called for a curfew. Pantin admitted that the violence stems from the critical situation the Atlantic coast population faces due to food shortages, floods, and the total lack of jobs.

These problems especially affect some 1,800 former rebels from KISAN [Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Indigenous Peoples], MAFE [expansion unknown], and MALS [expansion unknown], Pantin said. Unlike the former Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] rebels, who receive food, construction material, and other supplies through Roberto Ferrey's Repatriation Institute, the government has completely abandoned the indians.

The Atlantic coast is one of the country's most neglected areas and one that has received the most repatriated [people], which has greatly increased the number of unemployed, according to official figures. The Atlantic coast has received two types of former rebels: the Yatama [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama indians, and creole organizations] Resistance, who have just laid down their weapons; and the KISAN [Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Indigenous Peoples] for Peace, Autonomy, and Development, who signed peace agreements with the previous government in 1988.

"Trying to attain definite peace, we agreed that as coordinator of the regional autonomous government, I would come to Managua to seek central government support so that all indians would be treated equally, with the same rights as RN indians," Pantin said.

All efforts made before INRA [National Institute for Agrarian Reform] Director Gustavo Tablada, Repatriation Director Roberto Ferrey, and Deputy Interior Minister Jose Pallais to ensure that KISAN indians "be treated as equals" to RN indians have proved unsuccessful.

This is what Pantin was working on this week in Managua, accompanied by Hernaldo Chow, representative for the indians neglected by the government, when he was informed of the assault on the Puerto Cabezas food warehouse. Today Pantin and Chow are due to meet Roberto Ferrey.

Uncertain Situation

Due to communication difficulties, it could not be established yesterday if the port was still under curfew, but Pantin said: "I hope that the situation does not continue because we cannot live this way permanently."

The crisis caused by the lack of jobs for the former rebels and the population in general worsened in July due to flooding. This forced the creation of a National Emergency Commission, which has not been able to do much to face the situation.

Pantin said that precisely on 15 October, just before traveling to Managua, the Regional Emergency Commission approved the delivery of 50 percent of the food in the Moravian Church warehouse to former KISAN, MAFE, and MALS rebels.

Apparently this was not done, because four days after the agreement, the former rebels decided to assault the warehouse. Pantin did not rule out that other Puerto Cabezas citizens may have joined the looting.

"I admit that they have a family, children (which they cannot keep), and that there are no jobs on the coast," Panting said. "The others (from the RN) receive food, construction material, and other supplies that at least help resolve part of their problems," he added.

Government Promises Jobs

Pantin annonced that during the next few months an investment process will begin in the area, with the support of the Central Bank. This process will be mainly thorough mixed enterprises. Private Nicaraguan businessmen from the Pacific and the coast have promised to help procure fishing boats.

Government Denies Atlantic Coast Emergency

PA2310195390 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1348 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] It is not true that a state of emergency has been declared in the Atlantic coast region, Deputy Government Minister Jose Pallais said in a news conference this afternoon. During the news conference, it was announced that an investigation commission was created. The news conference was attended by Attorney General Duilio Baltodano; Brooklyn Rivera, director of the Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast; Leonel Panting, regional governor of the North Atlantic Coast; and Danilo Lacayo, director of information and press for the Presidency. It was admitted that incidents of violence had taken place, such as the looting of a food warehouse, but an emergency involving starvation was denied. On the contrary, it was mentioned that there was enough food for the Atlantic Coast, although there have been floods in the past few months. Let us listen to statements made by Deputy Government Minister Jose Pallais.

[Begin Pallais recording] [Words indistinct] a state of emergency. A curfew does not exist. The central government, which has the responsibility to do this, has not made such a statement. The regional, autonomous government, whose governor and council president are here with us, has not made such a statement either. This has been a totally incorrect report. Some disorders have taken place, such as the looting of a warehouse owned by the regional, autonomous government, but the police and civilian authorities have restored order to avoid incidents. It has taken precautionary measures to allow the aid from the National Emergency Committee and the (FIAC), which is aimed at the demobilized contras, to be distributed in an orderly manner in order that it can reach the beneficiaries to whom the food has been allocated. We have been conducting an investigation to arrest the people responsible for these violations. The regional, autonomous government issued a statement on the need to enforce law and order to allow the Atlantic

coast victims to receive the donations kindly provided by the different organizations and groups. [end recording]

Independent Liberal Party Elects New Leadership

PA2210214090 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The Independent Liberal Party [PLI] held elections for new leaders at the Cesar Augusto Silva convention center on 14 October. Dr. Wilfredo Navarro, a young PLI leader, was elected president. Here is Dr. Navarro talking about the new PLI leadership:

[Begin recording] [Navarro] The national leadership elected by the PLI yesterday is as follows: Wilfredo Navarro, president; Jaime Bonilla Lopez, first vice president; Julia Mena Rivera, second vice president; Anibal Martinez Martinez, third vice president; Dr. Virgilio Godoy, secretary general; Guillermo Selva Arguello, first deputy secretary general; and Dr. Arturo Cuadra Ortegaray, second deputy secretary general. Angela Castellon, Carmen Sequeira, William Lauren, Luis Moreno, Roberto Moreira, and Mario Montenegro were also elected to as-yet unnamed secretariats [secretarias innominadas].

[Reporter] The Sandinist media have said that Dr. Godoy maneuvered to impose the slate with his favorite candidates.

[Navarro] The Sandinist media are always trying to attack our party because they know that the PLI represents an active force which it has to defeat in this country. The Sandinist media manipulate the news. Yesterday's election was recognized by my opponent, Jaime Bonilla, as a democratic election. Dr. Godoy really did not have much participation in the election. The delegates expressed their viewpoint. I do not think it is worthwhile for me to discuss the comments by the Sandinist media which are well known by the Nicaraguan people. They do not deserve any special comment.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the country's economic, social, and political crisis? What course will the PLI take in the National Opposition Union [UNO] and the country in general?

[Navarro] We in the party believe that there is a big crisis of values in Nicaragua. The government lacks credibility. The Nicaraguans voted for a national salvation government program. To some extent, that program is being distorted by the attitude of some members of the government who are reaching agreements behind the backs of the people who voted for them.

Therefore, reorganization and consensus are really needed. I believe that the government is going about it the wrong way. There is emphasis on consensus about the economy, but I think there can be no consensus on the economy if there is no consensus among the country's political forces. Such a consensus must first of all be reached among the political forces which achieved electoral victory.

The Nicaraguan people are frustrated. Just as occurred after 1979, the Nicaraguan people feel they are not seeing the realization of that for which they struggled and risked their lives. That is why we have to recover the people's belief in the government. We are going to do so by keeping the promises we made to them during the election campaign. We cannot ignore the people's political maturity, and we cannot continue to deceive them. We must keep our promise to implement the government program. As a party, we will continue in the UNO. We want to maintain unity as much as possible. We want that unity to be maintained because we think it is the basis for the development of democracy in this country. We do not, however, believe unity must include submissiveness. We do not act on the basis of threats, nor do we seek flattery, sinecures, or privileges. The Liberals will try to maintain unity, but an honest and decent unity to benefit the Nicaraguan people. The PLI will continue its unwavering policy of not being submissive. If we did not yield to Somozism for so many years and if we did not yield to the Sandinist Front for 10 years, we are not going to yield now because of someone's flattery or illusions. [end recording]

Enrique Bermudez Returns To Reorganize PLN

PA2310142790 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Oct 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Enrique Bermudez, former Nicaraguan National Guard colonel, last night said at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport that it may be possible to reorganize the Nationalist Liberal Party [Partido Liberal Nacionalista—PLN] because "there is political freedom" in the country.

"I believe that anything is possible in a country where there is democracy," Bermudez said when speaking of the possibility of reorganizing the PLN. "It is up to the people if they want to join," Bermudez said regarding the potential followers the PLN may have.

Talking to reporters on his arrival, Bermudez said that "he comes from a family of liberals" but never joined a party because he was a member of the National Guard. According to "Commander 380 [contra appelation for Bermudez]," he can join a party now.

"There are things that worry the Nicaraguan people," the former contra leader said regarding the country's current situation. "I have returned to learn what I can do to rebuild the country."

Bermudez completely discarded the idea of a military option, a belief he embraced for 10 years, because "in Nicaragua a democratization process has begun. I support all that is democracy...besides, Nicaragua cannot endure another war." The former contra leader said that today's solution must be a political and negotiated one.

According to Bermudez, to strengthen democracy it is necessary to have an army in tune with the needs of the country; however, "the Nicaraguan people must be the ones who decide whether they want an army."

"If most of the people want an army, they will have one," he said and suggested that the number of soldiers within the Army equal 0.7 percent of the country's total population."

In the next few days Bermudez will attempt to gather information from various sources "to learn what is really happening in the country," and he will also try to meet with "Franklin" [alias for former contra leader Israel Galeano Cornejo] and "Ruben" [alias for former contra leader Carlos Sobalvarro] to analyze what can be done for those who laid down their weapons.

Enrique Bermudez returned to the country on 18 October and was greeted by Roberto Ferrey, director of the Nicaraguan Repatriation Institute, and Carlos Garcia, deputy director of the IND [Nicaraguan Sports Institute].

Sandinists Plan Operation of TV Station, Airline

PA2310012090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The Sandinist television station is coming. It will be heard and seen in February, on Channel 4. [Prominent Sandinist] Dionisio Marenco was saying, however, that it will possibly be in April. [Words indistinct]. It will be a great investment, and personnel are already being trained. The cost will be approximately $1.5 million.

Another big personal investment being made by some FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] members is linked to the Central American Airlines, an airline that will begin flying [words indistinct] eight weekly flights. The curious thing is that [words indistinct] these two investments [words indistinct] 68 percent of the shares, in other words national capital, and 32 percent is made up of foreign capital.

In the case of the television station, which has great political importance, [words indistinct] the Sandinists are investing in the country. [Passage indistinct]. Thus, the Sandinists feel there is trust and want to reactivate the country's economy [words indistinct]. Those most interested in social stability in this country are, therefore, the Sandinists.

Panama

U.S. Peace Corps Depicted as Branch of CIA

PA2310130590 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 22 Oct 90 p 12

[Report by Antonio Graell Flores]

[Text] Legislator Olimpo Saez, chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Legislative Assembly, states in his majority report concerning Bill No. 6—the bill that calls for approval of the agreement reached by the governments of Panama and the United States through an exchange of notes on 1 May—that the U.S. Peace Corps has the objective of promoting peace and world friendship.

Saez said that the three specific goals of the Peace Corps are: a) To help, with trained men and women, the countries where they serve; b) To promote understanding of the idiosyncrasies of the U.S. people; and c) To promote among the Peace Corps volunteers understanding of the culture of the countries where they serve.

According to the majority report, the agreement offers certain advantages to Panama. The report recommends that the agreement be passed for a second debate, according to Saez, of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena].

Legislator Alfredo Ehlers, of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], did not sign the report. He did not vote in favor of Bill No. 6, but he did not vote against it either.

Balbina Herrera de Perinan, a Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator and a member of the minority in the Foreign Relations Commission, in the minority report, asks the legislators to reject Bill No. 6 arguing that it humiliates Panamanians, especially the large sector of unemployed Panamanian professionals.

This legislator bases her request on the record that the notorious Peace Corps has in underdeveloped countries and on its real objectives. Her request notes: "The Peace Corps is a U.S. organization that was created by the Kennedy administration in the 1960's. It has served the U.S. Government as an arm of the CIA. Disguised as sheep, members of the Peace Corps were sent to all the underdeveloped countries of the world. Their sole objective was to watch every movement made by governments of countries where the CIA had interests.

Legislator Perinan said that the Americans, pressured by international public opinion, know that following the invasion and the military occupation of our fatherland, they have to put an end to the current situation and they are now preparing to turn the military occupation into a "civil occupation" by means of the notorious Peace Corps.

Perinan added: "If there were the will to really give technological aid to our country, which is the formal excuse for sending the Peace Corps, why do the Americans not design and finance the program using Panamanian professionals? There are hundreds of teachers, professors, engineers, agricultural experts, administrators, doctors, dentists, and other Panamanian professionals who are either unemployed or underemployed in Panama. If the North Americans really want to give us technological aid, why do they not offer the financial resources so that Panamanians may utilize our human resources, of which we have much, and of quality as well? Many of these Panamanians are going through difficult situations as a result of the brutal economic,

military, and political aggression the United States has been inflicting on us for the past three years. A program like that would be honorable for Panama and for the unemployed professionals. "Besides," Legislator Perinan noted, "the United States owes us that aid because of all the destruction and ruin it has brought upon us."

But, the answers to these questions are easy, Perinan said. She noted: A program involving Panamanians would not be designed or financed because Panamanian professionals, regardless of how pro-U.S. they might be, and many are very much so, would never work for the ulterior and real motive of the Peace Corps: espionage." [quotation marks as published].

Loaiza Denies U.S. Involved With Prisoners

PA2310175390 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 23 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Doris Hubbard Castillo]

[Excerpt] "Names and details have been mentioned, but serious and formal charges have still not been filed with the authorities. Until this is done, I cannot give any names or details," Captain Leslie Loaiza, director of the Technical Judicial Police, PTJ, said, referring to the participation of advisers close to President Guillermo Endara Galimany in the destabilization plan that was recently uncovered.

Asked if President Endara trusts the PTJ, given that he appointed a personal representative to follow the investigations closely, Loaiza said: "The president always has and continues to trust the PTJ. On the contrary, I feel he has given us too much responsibility in this investigation and this is a sign of trust."

As for a report released yesterday by the news media that U.S. Southern Command troops took six handcuffed and gagged prisoners from the PTJ installations, Loaiza simply said: "That is false. Everything is normal at the PTJ."

The PTJ chief also said that currently there is no arrest warrant against retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who, according to announcements, will return on 24 October. Herrera is supposedly the leader of the destabilization plan uncovered in Chiriqui Province.

What does exist, Loaiza said, is a habeas corpus appeal in his favor filed at the Supreme Court, where detainees who were in the custody of the PTJ have been turned over. [passage omitted]

Diaz Herrera Links Ex-Police Chief to CIA

PA2310151890 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Statement by Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired colonel and former chief of staff of the Panama Defense Forces, in Caracas, Venezuela—live]

[Excerpt] [Diaz] [passage omitted] I want to say that one would be speaking to nursery school children to say that a coup that includes Carlos Ivan Moreno .... [changes thought] He worked as a secretary of mine. He was a young man who liked to follow orders. Another man also mentioned is Victor Herrera. He worked very closely with me, and I gave him a scholarship to study computers. He is the brother of former Colonel Eduardo Herrera. I cannot believe they and Eduardo Herrera, who is very well guarded in Miami, would try to stage a military coup with Julio Sanjur, Anibal Martinez, and who knows who else, and that the CIA, the U.S. Southern Command, and the Military Group would not know about it.

They have wiretapped the telephones of the chief officers, and anybody who does not know that is a fool. They have wiretapped all the telephones of the top officer with all their listening devices and technology. It seems ridiculous, therefore, to think the movement sought to take over three garrisons, opposing even the control the United States has over the country. That would be ridiculous. The attorney general will have a hard time giving the political details of it.

A news dispatch stating that supporters of the government unwittingly and unknowingly participated in the conspiracy caught my attention. That is even more ridiculous. Approximately six or seven months ago, I heard in some circles that have ties to Panama's Christian Democratic Party [PDC]—the PDC is very strong here in Venezuela—that there is a desire to topple Endara. This is the sort of information that is heard. I also heard that there is a strong group of businessmen in Venezuela—that is what I have heard in important circles, as I socialize with important circles, and I even have personal relations with PDC members—who, with the U.S. Department of State and Panama's PDC, wanted to topple President Guillermo Endara, because they accuse Endara of ineptitude.

They were not going to wait through four and a half more years of his government. They also feel the Arnulfist Party is bereft of mass support in Panama and lacks international connections. The latter is true. As for Arnulfists being left alone, I think President Endara has greatly neglected his party, considering he has not even been able to name ministers from the Arnulfist Party. That is where you must look for the causes of the coup, and the rest is nonsense. I am saying this because this information will never be known again.

Of course, President Endara—and I do not have to defend him because all of them have been very mean to me, but I am not speaking about me—must look in his own house for the persons truly responsible for a coup attempt.

The CIA was Eduardo Herrera's sponsor [padrino] from the start. The CIA propped him up. That began in the times of President Eric Arturo Delvalle, when the CIA gave lots of money to Delvalle, the.... [changes thought] The CIA gave the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] $10 million, as reported by an author named

Kemp in his book—and he has never been disproved—and it spent all that money to topple Noriega with the help of Col. Herrera. They took him from Israel to Washington and then set him up in Miami. They wanted to install him in power from a military base.

Eduardo Herrera had already worked for the CIA. He developed ties with the CIA, and when one develops such ties, one never leaves the CIA payroll. Look at what happened to Noriega. The CIA defended him until it no longer could. [passage omitted]

Diaz Herrera Expects To Return Voluntarily

PA2310140190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1439 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Caracas, 22 Oct (AFP)—The Panamanian Government, headed by President Guillermo Endara, has requested that Venezuela extradite Panamanian Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera for his alleged ties to the murder of Deputy Health Minister Hugo Spadafora. Today, Diaz Herrera announced that he will return to Panama to face the charges against him.

Diaz Herrera said that approximately 15 days ago and prior to the extradition request, he had gone to Panama to make arrangements for his own and his Venezuelan family's return to the country. Diaz stated to the Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL that his visit "prompted this absurd legal farce against me."

He asserted that the request for extradition is a ploy by President Endara to imprison him because he [Diaz Herrera] has charged that the Endara Government "has surrendered and is a puppet" of the United States. "I am a thorn in Endara's side and that is why he wants to eliminate me," Diaz Herrera stated.

Concerning Spadafora, whose headless body was found approximately 200 km from the Costa Rican border on 13 September 1985, Diaz Herrera said that in Panama "everyone knows that Spadafora was my compadre, my neighbor, and my party companion."

"No one in Panama believes the lie that I participated in the murder of my good friend Spadafora," he said and added that the crime was the doing of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

A special prosecutor's office in Panama charged Diaz Herrera with "illegal association to commit a crime" and for covering up Spadafora's murder. Approximately 25 civilians and soldiers have been linked to the crime.

"The request for extradition is the tip of the iceberg. Underneath it, you find jealousy over the growth of the nationalist movement in which Ruben Blades (famous Salsa singer and Hollywood actor) and I participate. The first demonstration against Endara exploded four days ago. It was a strong protest of 45,000 workers," Diaz Herrera remarked.

"The honeymoon with Endara is over. The praise bestowed on the United States for toppling Noriega is now a thing of the past. Endara said the United States would bring tons of dollars and that has not happened. In addition, the gringos are not paying attention to him; they are concerned with the preparations for war in the Persian Gulf and their own economic woes," he noted. Diaz Herrera's remarks were particularly harsh on Endara, stating that "he consults with the U.S. ambassador on all his decisions," and "nothing is more shameful than having a gringo directing traffic in the heart of Panama City, stopping cars in a foreign language."

Guerrilla Activity Reportedly Detected in Chiriqui

PA2310174190 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Oct 90 p 40

[Report by Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] Authorities reported yesterday the existence of three guerrilla camps in Chiriqui Province, which included Costa Ricans and Nicaraguans, directed by former military officers of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's deposed government. Their first objective reportedly would be to blow up the "Estrella-Los Valles" hydroelectric plant.

Our source, which asked not to be identified for security reasons, said that the camps could be located in border towns of La Vaca, Piedra Candela, and Las Nubes in the mountainous areas of Chiriqui.

The authorities received the information from a witness by the name of Tapia who was contacted by the alleged guerrillas because of his extensive contacts for obtaining weapons; he is currently under the protection of state security.

The rebels received an arms shipment on 13 September via Costa Rica and have trained personnel to carry out military actions against "sensitive structures" in the country.

The authorities have declined to comment on whether this situation is linked to the M-20 [20 December Movement], which over the past few months has claimed responsibility for attacks on U.S. citizens and the U.S. Embassy.

A lieutenant colonel, a brother of former Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, Dr. Jose Silvera from Puerto Armuelles, and a man named Vigil are presumably implicated in those plans.

The authorities redoubled security in the "Estrella-Los Valles" hydroelectric plant after learning that it could be the target of a guerrilla attack.

Our source did not specify whether the coup attempt in which Colonel Eduardo Herrera has been implicated is related to this plan to overthrow President Guillermo Endara. Eduardo Herrera is expected to arrive in Panama today from Peru.

Meanwhile, Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] Director Leslie Loaiza said yesterday that high government officials are involved in a plot with military officers to overthrow President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

"Investigations have gone beyond a simple police probe conducted by the PTJ," Loaiza added.

According to Loaiza, the names of top government officials have been mentioned during interrogations conducted by the PTJ, but they have not been formally accused before the relevant authorities.

Loaiza said that the investigations show that the coup attempt was more than a simple movement at a military garrison in a province, adding that "it is broader than it appears to be."

Loaiza refrained, however, from giving names or details on the "top level officers" who have been mentioned during the investigations because they have not been seriously accused.

Loaiza said that five people have been arrested thus far. He rejected speculation that the "March for Bread, Roof, and Work" scheduled to start in Colon this afternoon could be linked to the destabilizing activities promoted by some military officers.

Concerning doubts expressed by some groups regarding the authenticity of the attempted coup, Loaiza said that very little information has been passed on to the public "so as not to hamper the investigations."

Argentina

Seineldin Begins 60-Day Disciplinary Sentence

PY2310182690 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, retired, arrived at the Santa Rosa airport in La Pampa Province at approximately 2226 yesterday to serve a 60-day disciplinary arrest at the headquarters of the Los Andes Fourth Army Corps command. The order for his arrest was issued after he confirmed the contents of a letter that he sent to President Carlos Menem in which he said that conditions were ripe for very serious events to occur. [passage omitted]

Vice President Eduardo Duhalde said this morning that the 60-day sentence that the retired colonel is serving at a military unit in La Pampa Province may be revised after the contents of Seineldin's letter to the president are analyzed.

[Begin recording] [Duhalde] The punishment is the responsibility of military justice. I do not know if it is proper to analyze it here, but the penalty is appropriate. The contents of the letter will be analyzed and the sentence may be increased or changed later, but this is something for the Army to decide.

[Reporter] Have you spoken with the president?

[Duhalde] I talked with the president this morning. I told him that the situation was calm, but I did not give details. I do not like to alarm the president when he is traveling because concerns increase by the distance traveled. Therefore I told him that he could be at ease, that the situation was normal, and that there were no indications of any further problems of order. We did not give the issue much significance. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Minister Views Recent Bombings, Subversion

PY2310204290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1609 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Oct (TELAM)—Argentine Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa said today that his ministry "is not aware of any official, or even unofficial, information on subversive activities" in Buenos Aires Province. He added that recent violent incidents are part of a "psychological campaign."

Speaking at Government House, Mera Figueroa reported that the intelligence services are investigating the incidents, including the five bombings that took place last week. He said: "All I can tell you is that all five bombs were placed by the same hands."

When asked who was responsible for the psychological action, Mera Figueroa answered: "I say that there are psychological campaigns, and I do not rule out that there may be some attempts at subversion. I also say that I have no information nor have I reached conclusions that allow me to say for sure."

Asked about leaflets through which Federal Police officers may be questioning the manner in which institutional funds are managed, Mera Figueroa said he did not know anything about these leaflets and stressed: "This is also part of the psychological campaign."

The interior minister emphasized that he had semiofficial information about a possible shooting at the General San Martin military school, which had prompted him to request "appropriate information."

Police sources had reported that shots heard in the area of the military school were fired by cadets who had successfully completed their academic year.

Concerning the activities of Enrique Gorriaran Merlo [leader of the People's Revolutionary Army, ERP, who claimed responsibility for the assassination of former Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza in Asuncion, Paraguay] in Buenos Aires Province, Mera Figueroa said: "We have no precise information on the subject at the Interior Ministry," adding that he has instructed a ministry official to check with Jose Diaz Bancalari, Buenos Aires Province interior minister, who is believed to have started this rumor.

Asked about possible future actions of the Army sector known as the Painted Faces, the interior minister answered: "I believe that that too is a psychological campaign; however, the actions of Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, retired, come under the jurisdiction of military discipline."

Questioned about sources of the psychological campaign, the minister said: "It has been launched by certain sectors with specific objectives in mind," and pointed out that "new media have been created, developed, and maintained for the fulfillment of these specific objectives."

Mera Figueroa stated that following the incidents in Chubut and other provinces, "everything is calm because the provinces have always been calm [as received], even though we must recognize that we are experiencing a crisis."

He concluded by saying that because of "overlapping agendas," he could not meet with Acting President Eduardo Duhalde today, adding that the latter's initiative to reward people who report or supply information that facilitates investigations aimed at arresting the perpetrators of the attacks, "seems interesting to me."

Aldo Rico Discusses Military, Politics

PY2310172090 Santiago COSAS in Spanish 16 Oct 90 pp 103-105

[Interview with Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, retired, by Manuel Santelices in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Santelices] Do you still feel like a military man despite the fact that you have been discharged?

[Rico] I have only been suspended. I have not filed a petition for a court injunction because I am still in the military. I cannot be deprived by decree of the professional art I have developed for thirty years, reaching a skill level attained by few. Nobody can deprive me of my rank through a decree; I enjoy the recognition, affection, and respect of my subordinates. No administrative power can deprive me of this privilege.

[Santelices] What is your influence in the Argentine Army?

[Rico] My influence has been increasing from the viewpoint of the political, strategic, and military way of thinking. Unfortunately, those who held positions in the military administration were unable to solve any problems.

[Santelices] Do you think the decision to discharge you from the Army was unfair?

[Rico] It was not unfairness, it was treason. It was treason by the commanders who were unable to make the right decisions. We subordinates overstepped their authority and they did not want to tolerate this. They are unable to command. The chain of command within the Argentine Army is broken. A soldier can make mistakes, but he cannot allow a subordinate to overstep his authority. Any Army officer ranking below me is unable to command; he can only administrate. The political model we are being subjected to is one of denationalization and a lack of national interest, and it does not include the Armed Forces as power factors. The commanders are doing nothing to overcome this situation. This political model implies the deterioration of the Armed Forces.

[Santelices] Do you mean to say that politicians and commanders are "accomplices in a maneuver to destroy the military apparatus?"

[Rico] Yes, Alfonsin sponsored an open ideological battle. The situation is worse under Menem's administration, because he has not unleashed an ideological campaign even through the mass media. Menem voices support for the Armed Forces, but he is really destroying it faster than Alfonsin did.

[Santelices] Do you think Argentine politicians fear the military?

[Rico] It would be reasonable for them to fear the military, because many mistakes have been made from the military standpoint. I want to point out that any time the Armed Forces have been involved in political matters, they were first urged to do so first by a political group, such as the Radical Party in 1976. They filled a vacuum created by mistakes by the administration. The same thing occurred in Chile. The fact is that everything is not over because the military takes power; rather, it is when everything is over that the military comes in. Many people continue to believe that a military government is the solution to any problem.

[Santelices] Do you agree?

[Rico] No, I reject this idea because the Armed Forces, the Church, and labor unions should be permanent power groups that do not involve themselves in government administration. [passage omitted]

[Santelices] If the situation is not solved, is there a possibility of new uprisings?

[Rico] That could happen.

[Santelices] Would you lead another uprising?

[Rico] No, I am concentrating on another matter.

[Santelices] Would you support it from the political sector?

[Rico] I will not support it because a military uprising will not solve the situation. The Armed Forces are facing an explosive situation because there is hatred, hunger, and weapons. A crisis can erupt at any time. They know it, but they are doing nothing to prevent it. They do not give a damn about the country's problems. The Argentine state is being handled by a mafia in which 10 or 15 people control everything.

[Santelices] That is the reason you want to take power.

[Rico] Any citizen who loves his fatherland, who believes that he can do something for it, should run for president. If Alfonsin was president, and Menem is running the country, why should I not run for president?

[Santelices] But your political record will harm any campaign you undertake...

[Rico] I have no political record. I have a record of 30 years of combat, of struggling for my country without charging commissions. The uprisings I organized were not political but institutional. If they had been political we would have been in Government House. We are not stupid. And we had the power to do so. Ours were not rebellions but uprisings.

[Santelices] What is the difference?

[Rico] One is against the Constitution, and the other is against the chain of command. We were not protesting against the Constitution but against the leaders. That is why we are at the head of society, because we renewed the leadership. We threw out more generals than Alfonsin did. We threw out 54 generals, and we will throw out many more. We are confident that we will achieve power in Argentina through the Constitution. We will then reform the military system, and we will throw out all those miserable men within the Armed Forces. That is the first measure we will enact. They will not even be entitled to their pensions.

[Santelices] Are you comfortable in politics now?

[Rico] Yes, politics is the art of leadership, and we have carried it out it in its purest form. I feel comfortable with this, and I think that we are vindicating politics and the politicians in Argentina within the context of this generalized corruption of the leadership class. When we speak of leadership, we are referring to the military, business, and political leadership.

[Santelices] Is "Operation Dignity" a political party?

[Rico] No, we are currently working within the context of a foundation which we want to separate from politics as soon as possible. To reach power we are forming a political force...

[Santelices] What will it be called?

[Rico] We do not know yet. It will probably be a party alliance over which I will preside. And I intend to run in the elections for Buenos Aires governor in 1991.

[Santelices] I heard that you are campaigning in the slums.

[Rico] No, I do not visit the slums for politics. I do not think that the marginal sectors can bring about changes.

[Santelices] You have been charged with taking advantage of the hopes of the needy...

[Rico] I do not know who said that. I am not interested in what is said about me. Let them come and take pictures of me! The political leaders in Argentina are daring, corrupt, shameless, and intelligent. It is the worst combination for the peoples' interest. They do not care in the least about the problems of the people.

[Santelices] Will your party be a nationalist party?

[Rico] What is wrong with that? Is it bad to be a nationalist?

[Santelices] I was just asking...

[Rico] Operation Dignity is nationalistic because it follows the example of countries that were in crisis. We are just as nationalistic as the Americans.

[Santelices] Are you also fascists?

[Rico] No, we are not followers of Hitler.

[Santelices] But you are viewed positively by fascist movements...

[Rico] What fascist movement is there in Argentina? There is none.

[Santelices] Who are the people who greet you with an extended arm at rallies?

[Rico] Those are a few confused people. Where are they? What are their names? They are nonexistent. What political force do these people have?

[Santelices] Probably only that which you may give them...

[Rico] I have never been greeted like that in Argentina. Nobody greets anyone like that here, except for Guillermo Patricio Kelly when he was a member of the National Liberation Alliance. There is no fascism in Argentina.

[Santelices] If you come to power, how will you fight Marxism?

[Rico] There is an institutional Marxism that will always exist because, like the Argentine peso, it is subsidized by the CPSU [as published]. Marxism is inevitable in a democracy. If one can create objective conditions for progress, however, Marxism will disappear. Besides, Marxism in Argentina, even in the form of what is now called the United Left or Alsogaray's liberalism, is a marginal expression. I do not think these groups are important. [passage omitted]

France Proposes Fixed Nuclear Waste Dump

PY2310184890 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1818 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Oct (DYN)—A report published in today's issue of the EXTRA newspaper states that the world's first permanent nuclear waste dump may be built in Argentina if the national government accepts a French proposal, involving millions of dollars, to install it in Chubut Province.

Tomorrow, the Latin American chapter of the Greenpeace ecological organization will denounce construction of this toxic waste dump before the courts, and will report the names of Argentine officials and of businessmen in both countries who are allegedly involved in the issue, the newspaper states.

According to the report, the dump will be built at Gastre, Chubut Province. If this happens, however, radiation will increase the health risks for inhabitants of the Patagonia Region.

An article accompanying the detailed report mentions that construction of this nuclear dump has been on hold since 1978, when Rear Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, retired, presided over the National Atomic Energy Committee.

The report also states that, even if the proposal is not accepted, "nuclear accidents similar to the one at Chernobyl could occur" in Argentina since "any failure at the Atucha I plant could cause several deaths through direct radiation and spontaneous abortions, and many other deaths later as a result of radiation, drinking water contamination," and other harmful effects.

The toxic effect of the nuclear waste, which generates a permanent heat of 60 degrees [not further identified], ends only after hundreds of thousands or hundreds of millions of years, the report concludes.

Correction to Consortium Threatens Entel Purchase

PY2210122190

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Consortium Threatens To Pull Out of Entel Deal," published in the 22 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 31:

Column two, paragraph two, only sentence make read: ...aren't any problems or objections."

But Rinaldi said.... (changing wording)

Bolivia

Iturralde To Seek Aid for Coca Replacement Work

PY2010155890 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Oct 90 p 3

[Excerpt] President Jaime Paz Zamora has announced that Bolivia will ask the EEC for $500 million in contributions for 25 projects to be implemented under the Alternative Development Program.

According to the presidential announcement, Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde will personally go to the EEC to explain the programs, which are aimed at reducing coca plantations and promoting regional development.

In noting the government's efforts to further that aim, the president said: "We will present the projects in November, and the EEC should analyze them in December; not all of the projects may be accepted, but they are well thought out."

In an impromptu news conference, the president expressed his satisfaction with the government's accomplishments in the fight against drug trafficking and promotion of the Alternative Development Program.

According to an evaluation by the executive branch chief, the National Unity government has persuaded the United States to double its economic cooperation in 13 months. He said: "We have done a lot in 13 months. We managed to bring about a change in attitude and sold the idea of development for coca."

By the end of this year, the government program hopes to surpass the target set in Law 1008 for the reduction of coca plantations, thus showing the nations of the world that Bolivia is determined to reduce coca plantations and step up the fight against drug trafficking.

Hence, the importance that the government attaches to the trip by the foreign minister, who is currently selecting the 25 projects for which contributions will be requested from the EEC countries. [passage omitted]

Oil Deposit Discovered in Tarija Department

PY1910204690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0749 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] La Paz, 18 Oct (EFE)—It was officially reported here today that a huge oil deposit discovered in southern Bolivia will increase this country's reserves by four years.

Senator Oscar Vargas told the local daily HOY that the deposit, located in Tarija Department on the Argentine border, has approximately 1 trillion cubic feet (some 28,300 billion cubic meters) of natural gas and 28 million barrels of crude.

These amounts of gas and oil are equivalent to 20 and 22 percent respectively of current Bolivian gas and oil reserves, which means that now the country's reserves will last 24 years instead of the 20 years estimated before the discovery.

According to the senator, who is also chairman of the Senate hydrocarbons committee, tests carried out at the San Alberto oil well indicate that 8 million cubic feet (some 225,400 cubic meters) of gas and 180 barrels of oil can be pumped daily.

According to the latest available data, in 1988 all 31 Bolivian oil fields produced 169,875 million cubic feet of gas (464.1 million cubic meters per day) [as received] and 7.56 million barrels of crude (20.722 barrels per day).

A high-ranking government official who asked not to be named, today told a group of correspondents that the Bolivian Government was hoping to keep the discovery of the deposit a secret until President Paz Zamora dedicated it on 19 October.

Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) refused to confirm the discovery to EFE, so as not to break the promise with which only Senator Vargas chose not to comply.

The senator explained that the discovery of this deposit after five years of prospecting is one of the government's main successes in the area of hydrocarbons, the second most important sector for the Bolivian economy after mining.

President Dedicates Oil Work

PY2010172290 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Today constitutional President Jaime Paz Zamora dedicated drilling and exploitation work at the San Alberto X-9 oil well, which was recently discovered in Gran Chaco Province, Tarija Department.

The chief of state was accompanied by acting head of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] new majority faction Oscar Eid Franco, Energy Minister Angel Zannier, Minister Without Portfolio Guillermo

Fortun, U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard, the chairman of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, and local authorities.

According to preliminary information, the well will produce 180 barrels of light oil per day and 8 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. According to tests of the well, it is estimated that it has a reserve of 28 million barrels of oil and one trillion cubic feet of natural gas. [passage omitted]

Investigation Into Terrorist Attacks Progressing

PY1910172490 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Oct 90 p 1

[Excerpt] The investigation aimed at establishing the sources and identifying the masterminds and perpetrators of the terrorist attacks that took place in La Paz on the evening of 10 October "have made some headway." "Revealing clues" have been gathered by investigators from the police, Interior Ministry, and Armed Forces intelligence services. According to official sources, these clues have been "compared" with information received from international police organizations, but the sources refused to provide details "so as not to jeopardize the investigation."

Government officials have publicly admitted, however, that certain conclusions have been reached:

—Groups from the extreme left may be involved;

—"People trained and indoctrinated abroad" are directly involved;

—Methods used in the past by extreme rightist groups have been resurrected: "psychological terrorism," markedly nationalistic objections, anti-imperialistic positions, and the use of acronyms which "are afterwards changed";

—Drug trafficking is indirectly supported;

—Charges are made to "confuse the people." [passage omitted]

President Repudiates Terrorists

PY1910202290 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Oct 90 p 7

[Excerpts] Bolivian President Jaime Paz has criticized the communique which the Nestor Paz Zamora Commando [CNPZ] released yesterday claiming responsibility for the terrorist attacks on 10 October. President Paz stated: "This approach was defeated in Latin America 20 years ago."

Paz explained that the group or the person who wrote the communique "believes in the principles of Bolivian and Latin American extreme-left groups that were popular 20 years ago." He added: "True American left-wing groups advocate progressive ideas, much more up-to-date that those set forth in the communique."

The Bolivian president, younger brother of Nestor Paz Zamora, a guerrilla who died in Teoponte in 1970, objected to the improper use of his brother's name and said: "Not even my family has ever dared to use it." [passage omitted]

Speaking about the death of Policeman Jose Luis Miranda, President Paz said: "An attempt is made to justify something that has no justification: killing Bolivians in the name of anti-imperialism. I cannot justify this in any way at all."

He reiterated that the use of violence to oppose structural change is equally unjustified. "To oppose investments in Bolivia is tantamount to harming the poor because it is the poor—about whom the communique expresses concern—who need jobs. The only way to create jobs is to bring in investments that can get the economy moving," the chief executive said.

The president ruled out the possibility that more acts of violence could take place in the near future and said: "We should not use the expression wave of violence. This was an isolated case that has been repudiated by the entire country because we Bolivians have chosen democracy as the means to resolve our affairs and organize our national life. [passage omitted]

Mexico's Salinas Meets With Businessmen

PY2010000190

[Editorial Report] La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish on 7 October on page 7 carries a 1,200 word article describing a working breakfast between representatives of the Confederation of Bolivian Private Businessmen and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

In his welcoming speech, businessman Carlos Calvo Galindo stresses Bolivia's success in controlling inflation and in opening the country's economy. Calvo says that "the Bolivian people have always loved the Mexican people," adding that in the future we should strengthen our relations and perhaps some day integrate our economies on a solid business basis.

President Salinas says that in Mexico there is "widespread recognition" for Bolivian success in defeating hyperinflation. He added that inflation "consumes incomes and prevents the definition of a sure horizon" that would encourage investments. Salinas adds that inflation is "the number one enemy of recovery and sustained growth."

Salinas says he held a "long conversation with President Paz," adding that the dialogue was "very open, very direct, and very positive."

Salinas then talks about Mexico's economy, saying that "economic recovery is a true and essential need" because "each year the population grows by one and one half million people."

Salinas says that we should recognize the present trend "toward global interrelation," adding that the world is "forming blocs." Salinas mentions the unification of Europe in 1992, and the United States and Canada. He says that "the Pacific Basin has an extraordinary financial and technological dynamism and also a population of three billion people."

Salinas says that "it is essential to be involved in these blocks," but it is also "indispensable" that they do not become "centers that are closed to trade." Salinas says that these centers should exchange "words for deeds" and "practice freedom of trade."

Salinas says that Mexico "is working on a free trade agreement with the United States" that if successful will allow "Mexico, the United States, and Canada to form what will be the largest free trade zone in the world."

Salinas also says that Mexico has reached an agreement with Europe "to participate in that trade zone," and that Mexico has joined the Pacific Economic Conference with full rights. The Mexican president says that for this participation to be fruitful Mexico must strengthen its economy through "the stabilization" of growth and through "structural changes to achieve permanent economic efficiency." Salinas concludes by saying that the government has reduced inflation from 200 percent a year two years ago to 20 percent today.

MBL Headquarters in Cochabamba Bombed

PY2010215890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] La Paz, 19 Oct (EFE)—Official sources have reported that a nine-year-old boy was wounded today in a dynamite attack on the Movement for a Free Bolivia [MBL] headquarters in Cochabamba.

A bomb planted in a hole made near the front of the MBL headquarters exploded at 0100 (0500 GMT) today. Cochabamba, the third most important Bolivian city, is located 403 km east of La Paz.

Cochabamba Prefecture sources told EFE that the boy, who lives in a building near the place where the explosion occurred, was injured in the arm by shards of glass.

The MBL, a faction of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], the political group of Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, has three of the 130 seats in congress. The MBL is one of the political groups most critical of the current administration. MBL top leaders today met at party headquarters in Cochabamba to analyze possible amendments to the electoral bill which will be soon discussed in congress.

MBL leaders ruled out the possibility that this attack is related to those perpetrated in La Paz on 10 October. The then unknown "Nestor Paz Zamora Commando" [CNPZ], which claimed responsibility for the attacks in La Paz, expressed its support for the ideals of Argentine-Cuban guerrilla Che Guevara.

This terrorist group shot a Bolivian policeman to death and detonated a bomb at the door of the residence of the U.S. Marines in charge of guarding the U.S. Embassy.

The CNPZ also bombed the monument to late U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

IMF Approves Bolivian Letter of Intent

PY2210170990 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Oct 90 p 1

[Excerpts] The IMF has approved "without any objection" the Bolivian Government's economic policy for the next three years, which had been spelled out in a letter of intent. An official announcement last night indicates that this approval is tantamount to "certifying that Bolivia will consolidate its economic recovery." The announcement was received with satisfaction in government circles that consider "the IMF decision to be of significant political value." [passage omitted]

The letter of intent to the IMF will be made public in the next few days "as evidence of the openness with which the government acts," said a government spokesman, adding that "this will be the first time that a document of this kind has ever been released."

Forces Seize 12,420 Kg of Drugs in Nine Months

PY2010001490 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Oct 90 p 7

[Text] The social defense under secretary has labeled the confiscation of 12,420,518 grams of drugs the "most important action conducted by the Bolivian Government" since it began operations to formally struggle against drug trafficking aimed at international markets.

According to an statistical report, 40 weapons, 15 vehicles, and 12,420 kg of drugs were seized, and 299 drug traffickers were arrested up to late September this year.

The Antinarcotics Special Forces [FELCN] destroyed a total of 1,632 cocaine factories and seized $71,192.

A report delivered to PRESENCIA states that the 12,420,518 grams of drugs that were confiscated include 86,729 grams of cocaine hydrochloride, 6,357,193 grams of cocaine sulfate, 5,960,993 grams of cocaine, and 15,603 grams of marijuana.

The FELCN burned 3,556,877 grams of the total confiscated drugs, including 3,087,005 grams of cocaine sulfate, 66,276 cocaine hydrochloride, 387,347 grams of cocaine, and 16,249 grams of marijuana.

The following chemical precursors were seized: 40,506 liters of acetone, 42,417 liters of sulfuric acid, 30,877 liters of hydrochloric acid, 1,140 liters of ammoniac, 3,124 liters of sweet water, 1,298 kg of potasium permanganate, 8,050 sodium bicarbonate, 12,360 kg of lime; 250 pounds of cocaine, 2,495 liters of kerosene, 1,500 meters of plastic sheeting, 64,830 liters of sulfuric ether, 1,651 liters of diesel, and 1,910 liters of gasoline.

Government Control of Chemical Products Reviewed

PY2210232090

[Editorial Report] On 10 and 11 October, two Bolivian papers carry reports on the "First National Symposium on the Implementation of Law No. 1008 on the Control of Imports of Essential Chemical Substances" and on government control of these substances.

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish on 10 October in a 300-word article on page 5 reports that Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico told the symposium on 9 October that the movement of chemical substances into drug trafficking zones is reaching alarming proportions, to the point of putting the results of interdiction actions at risk.

Speaking to a group of representatives from private and public institutions that are directly involved in the import of chemicals, Torrico stated that drug traffickers are now experimenting with nontraditional chemicals, which are not included in Annex Five of Law No. 1008. Torrico also said that chemical waste dumped into rivers could turn regions into deserts because it adversely affects the ecosystem.

Also on 10 October on page 5, La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish publishes a 180-word article in which Dr. Armando Moreno, legal adviser for the Board for the Control of Chemical Substances, who participated in the symposium, reports that the Bolivian Government views 21 chemical products as controlled substances, 12 more than are included in Annex Five of Law No. 1008. Moreno regrets the fact that some enterprises import chemicals and then divert them to drug trafficking zones, thus making tremendous profits.

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish on 11 October on page 6 carries a 250-word article reporting that Bolivia imports 41 chemical substances that are essential for the manufacture of cocaine. According to experts who participated in the symposium, cocaine manufacturers use at least 41 different chemical substances, of which only 21 are controlled. The experts call for stricter control of the import and marketing of these products to end clandestine manufacturing of cocaine.

Antidrug Cooperation Agreement Published

PY2210214390 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Oct 90 Section 4 p 2

[Text] In view of the need to protect the lives and the health of their two peoples and to prevent them from suffering the effects of the drug scourge, the Bolivian and Mexican Governments yesterday signed an agreement on mutual cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and drug consumption. The agreement foresees this fight on four [number as published] fronts: prevention, reduction of the illegal demand for narcotics, control over supplies, destruction of the illegal traffic, and treatment and rehabilitation.

The full text of this agreement is the following:

Article I

Scope of the Agreement

1. The objective of this agreement is to promote cooperation between the parties so that they can more effectively fight drug trafficking and consumption. These two phenomena go beyond national borders.

The parties will adopt the necessary measures to comply with the obligations resulting from this agreement. This refers to the legislative and administrative obligations contemplated in this agreement, which must agree with the fundamental terms of the two countries' domestic laws.

2. The parties will comply with obligations deriving from this agreement in accordance with the principles of self-determination, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries, legal equality, and respect for the territorial integrity of the states.

3. Neither one of the parties will exert in the territory of the other party any authority or role that is, by domestic or sovereign right, the responsibility of the other country.

Article II

Extent of Cooperation

The parties will adopt the cooperative measures necessary to fully ensure that the two parties will comply, in the most effective manner, with the commitments they make within the framework of the Vienna Convention of 1988. They will also try to perform this cooperation to the best of their ability according to the objectives and recommendations of the broad and multidisciplinary plan.

The assignation and use of human, financial, and material resources that may prove necessary for the implementation of the antidrug trafficking and antidrug consumption programs will be defined by each party through a memorandum of understanding that will be implemented in accordance with the terms of Article V of this agreement and the possibilities of each party's budget. These programs will be implemented within the framework of shared responsibility.

Complying with the terms of Article I, the cooperation discussed in this agreement will seek to implement programs in the two countries that will:

a) reduce the illegal demand for narcotics through prevention campaigns, treatment, and the creation of a public awareness.

b) replace the illegal coca plantations in accordance with the laws.

c) conduct operations to reduce and put an end to the activities related to drug trafficking and drug consumption;

these include fighting drug production, trafficking, and consumption, and include the adoption of measures for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and the confiscation of assets obtained through drug trafficking.

d) identify and destroy laboratories and other facilities in which narcotics are illegally processed or produced.

e) regulate the production, import, export, stockpile, distribution, and sale of input chemical products, solvents, and other chemicals that are used in the illegal production of drugs and other psychotropic substances.

f) establish systems to exchange data on the fight against drug trafficking and consumption. These systems will absolutely respect the authority of the two nation's officials.

g) strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and drug consumption by assigning more human, financial, and material resources, within the possibilities of each country's budget.

h) draft new laws that the two parties may deem adequate to help fight, more effectively, drug trafficking and consumption.

i) implement, in general, all activities that may prove appropriate for establishing better cooperation between the parties.

Article III

The Cooperation Mechanism

To comply with the terms of Article II of this agreement, the parties agree to establish a Bolivian-Mexican Cooperation Committee to Fight Drug Trafficking and Drug Consumption. (to be known as the committee).

Article IV

Bolivian-Mexican Cooperation Committee Membership

1. The committee will comprise the Coordinating Authorities of the Parties that will play an operative as well as a consultative role. The operative authorities in the case of the Republic of Bolivia will be the National Council Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking (Conalid) and the Social Defense Undersecretariat. In the case of the United Mexican States, the office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic [Procurado General de la Republica] and any other offices appointed to that effect will act.

The Foreign Ministries of the parties will be the consultative authorities.

The coordinating authorities of the two parties may request public and private organizations of their respective states, linked through their activities to matters related to this agreement, to grant the required specialized advice and the technical assistance.

Article V

The Committee's Functions

1. The committee's main task will be to make, by the consensus of the coordinating authorities of the two parties, recommendations to their respective governments on the most efficient way to cooperate to fully comply with the commitments undertaken through this agreement, in compliance with the 1988 Vienna Convention and seeking to fulfill the objectives of the Broad and Multidisciplinary Plan:

a) Each coordinating authority will inform its respective government about the committee's recommendations.

b) To be able to execute the committee's recommendations, the governments will grant their approval through diplomatic channels in the form of a memorandum of understanding. Each memorandum of understanding will form part of this agreement.

c) Each memorandum of understanding will be executed by the operative coordinating authorities of the committee in their respective states, strictly complying with Article I of this agreement and in compliance with the 1988 Vienna Convention.

2. As part of its main task, the committee will also carry out complementary tasks designed to promote, in the field of the struggle against drug trafficking and abuse, the most efficient application of other bilateral conventional instruments in force between the two parties, including those referring to mutal assistance in the legal field and in the execution of court sentences. These functions will be fulfilled in compliance with Paragraph No. 1 of this Article.

Article VI

The Committee's Reports

1. To keep the governments informed, the committee will draw up an annual report on the implementation of this agreement, in which it will describe the level of cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking and abuse.

2. The Parties agree that the annual reports to which this Article refers to will represent the joint bases upon which their respective governments will act individually, bilaterally, and multilaterally in evaluating the efforts of the parties in the struggle against drug trafficking and abuse, using the mentioned reports before their respective pertinent authorities in their mutual relationship and in the international forums, especially those listed in the 1988 Vienna Convention and those recommended by the Broad Multidisciplinary Plan.

Article VII

The Committee's Meetings

1. The committee will meet annually in a place and on a date to be agreed by the coordinating authorities through diplomatic channels. The parties will alternately host the mentioned meetings.

2. During their meetings, the committee will approve its reports and all its recommendations and decisions by mutual agreement of the coordinating authorities.

Article VIII

Unilateral Decisions

Within the spirit of cooperation between the two parties, they both agree to abide by the mechanism established in this agreement and to inform each other about any unilateral measure on the subject that may have negative effects for the other party.

Article IX

Implementation

This agreement will be implemented on the date the governments of the two parties notify each other, through diplomatic channels, that they have fulfilled their respective requirements and constitutional procedures.

Article X

Cancellation

The two parties may cancel this agreement at any time, as long as the decision is notified in writing and through diplomatic channels. In this case, the agreement will expire three months after the mentioned notification has been made. This will not affect the completion of the specific projects under way that may have been started while the agreement was still in force.

Article XI

Review

The parties may review the terms of this agreement and the resulting changes or amendments will be implemented as stipulated in Article IX.

City of La Paz, 6 October 1990, in two equally valid copies in Spanish.

Brazil

Avibras To Ship Rockets to Saudi Arabia

PY2410003390 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc., a Brazilian materiel manufacturer, will tomorrow make the first shipment of rockets of a $70 million—that is, nearly 7 billion cruzeiros—contract with Saudi Arabia.

The cargo is already at the Viracopos international airport in Campinas, 100 km from Sao Paulo.

The shipment arrived at the Viracopos airport today at 0500. Seventeen trucks transported 240 tons of weapons from the Avibras factory in Jacarei. The boxes are addressed to the Saudi Defense and Aviation Ministry, and they were unloaded immediately. They contain some of the 10,000 rockets for the Astros 2 weapons system that was ordered by Saudi Arabia through a $70 million contract, nearly 7 billion cruzeiros, from Avibras.

This is the first shipment of weapons Avibras is making to Saudi Arabia since the eruption of the Persian Gulf crisis. There is absolute secrecy here at the Viracopos airport about the export of these weapons. No one has reported when the weapons will be shipped.

Daily Analyzes Cuts in Military Budgets, Service

PY2310202390 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] The news we published yesterday, when we announced that the Army minister would sign an order advancing the date for the discharge of 60 percent of all conscripts from December to 31 October, has been confirmed. Government and society must now decide on the best defense policy for Brazil. The question is important because the reason for advancing the discharge date is to save nearly 600 million cruzeiros in food for the conscripts. The measure complies, as is well known, with the need to curb public spending in the fight against inflation.

The debate is not only necessary, it is also urgent. The ground forces are not the only ones going through a very difficult period. The Navy and Air Force have the same problem. We stress that we are not concerned with military salaries, a very difficult and sensitive equation in light of the difficulties facing all salary earners in the country. We are concerned with the training of the troops and what the military calls the "state of readiness"—that is, the Armed Forces ability to immediately deploy emergency forces. Emergencies are usually unannounced, they do not allow for mobilization and training, and they simply happen.

As far as we know, the Army is no longer conducting any training that requires the use of ammunition or fuel because of budget restrictions. The equipment is not being used, but it still wears out. The ground forces administration was forced to suspend some activities in Army barracks to save the money that was reassigned to food. The suspension of maneuvers hinders training, worsening the troop's ability to perform and creating a climate of tension among officers who no longer know their purpose in the barracks.

The same situation exists within the Navy, although with different technical characteristics: ships in need of maintenance are kept in dock because of a lack of money. In other cases repairs have been delayed for months for the same reason. The Navy does not train its personnel for the required number of days, or even the minimum that is needed to keep ships and crews ready for combat. The

Argentine Navy sent warships to the Persian Gulf. The Brazilian Navy cannot do the same because its electronic war equipment is obsolete. The personnel difficulties in the Navy, however, are like those in the Army.

In the Air Force, where the sense of the individuality of mission is greater than at the other branches, training flights have been reduced by nearly 50 percent. Only in special cases can officers make training flights, and the training of the most senior officers has been suspended altogether. The number of students has been reduced at the Pirassununga Academy. Military personnel on administrative duty at the three branches are slowly being replaced by civilians to reduce military positions.

We think it is necessary to discuss our national defense policy. We know that the issue is delicate and that no one—least of all the military ministers—want to discuss it. Some officers do not want civilians to discuss such hot topics, but we have to discuss it because the nation must be conscious that we share borders with 10 countries and that we must have special controls on some of them. It has been reported that elements of the Colombian M-19 guerrilla movement have entered Brazilian territory to rest and to get supplies. The larger states know that Brazilian troops had to talk with a group of Shining Path guerrillas that invaded Brazilian territory and ask them to leave. It was also necessary to send special troops—in a rush—from Rio de Janeiro to the Bolivian border to overcome an incident that could have developed into something nasty. The items we have mentioned did not only involve the Army, FAB [Brazilian Air Force] planes had to be used to transport the troops. It is also important to note that the Navy, as long as its ships are docked for repairs and as long as submarines cannot join the fleet for lack of maintenance, is in no condition to handle emergencies in Brazilian territorial waters or to help Brazilian diplomacy by stressing our national presence internationally.

The fight against inflation is a priority for the president. We believe that the defense of the state—the basic task of the Armed Forces—should also be a priority. We must ask the question: Will the Armed Forces be able to fulfill any of their constitutional duties if they are not trained, if they do not have appropriate and modern equipment, and above all, if they do not know the role that the head of state and their commander in chief has reserved for them in the political project that is New Brazil?

We reiterate that the question does not only affect the Armed Forces. The problem affects all Brazilians. The people, and principally the political powers, should answer the simple question that is asked at the command and general staffs schools: What are the Armed Forces here for?

The problem is more serious than generally assumed when it is studied within the framework of collective psychology. The Armed Forces are going through an identity crisis in addition to their lack of training. Maybe they will want to return to the times when military men did not think much about being professional but concentrated a lot on important national issues. The nation has, since the proclamation of the Republic, seen where that mood can take us.

Trade Surplus Totals $711 Million in September

PY2410024690 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Brazil had a $711 million trade surplus in September. Exports totaled $2.591 billion while imports totaled $1.880 billion last month. The Brazilian trade surplus totaled $9.197 billion from January to September 1990.

Chile

Air Force 'Emphatically' Denies Testing Bombs

PA2410000290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Chilean Air Force [FACh] Public Relations Department has emphatically denied that C-101 fighters or any of its other planes have tested FAE [fuel-air explosive] bombs, which are known in Chile as BEAC [bomba explosiva aire combustible].

The denial refuted a report received from Spain through international press agencies stating that these planes had tested FAE bombs in the northern part of Chile, in conjunction with Cardoen Companies.

The Public Relations Department explained that the FACh has not conducted tests at any of its proving grounds, nor used any of its planes for this purpose. The source also reported that the FACh has not conducted a joint test with Cardoen Companies for many years.

The FACh spokesman said that the technical characteristics of the FAE bomb—such as weight, diameter, and length—are completely unknown to the institution, and therefore, it can hardly be said that these bombs have been tested by C-101 fighters, which, in addition, have a very small capacity.

Legislators React to U.S. Move on Amendment

PY2310140890

[Editorial Report] Santiago Domestic Service at 2200 GMT on 22 October carries a three-minute report on the reaction of Juan Antonio Coloma, vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, to the partial lifting of the Kennedy Amendment, which restricts U.S. exports of military materiel to Chile.

The report notes: "Coloma said that the serious, discriminative decision by the United States to partially lift the Kennedy Amendment only for the Air Force and not the Army or Navy was surprising and distressing.

"Coloma and Deputy Sergio Correa of the Independent Democratic Union, UDI, reiterate their belief that the mere existence of the Kennedy Amendment is a serious obstacle to good relations between Chile and the United States, especially between their Armed Forces."

The report says: "Deputies Coloma and Correa urged the government not to accept this partial lifting of the Kennedy Amendment by submitting a protest note to the U.S. Senate or by bringing the subject up during the visit President George Bush will make to our country."

The report notes that Francisco Bartolucci, president of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, "stated that the U.S. Senate's recent decision to lift the Kennedy Amendment only for the Chilean Air Force represents a groundless, hideous decision. He added that as long as the reasons for this decision are not explained, people will speculate on the measure; this, he said, is very unclear and harmful to Chile."

Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish at 2200 GMT on 22 October reports during its regular newscast that Christian Democratic Deputy Guillermo Yunge commented that, from his point of view, "the partial lifting of the Kennedy Amendment was a positive but insufficient measure." Yunge goes on to say that Chile "will continue to make efforts to fully normalize its relations with the United States."

Socialist Senator Jaime Gazmuri labels "as positive the decision to partially lift the ban on the sale of war materiel to Chile as established by the Kennedy Amendment, which prohibits the sale of materiel and spare parts to the Chilean Armed Force until the murder of Orlando Letelier is clarified."

"Senator Gazmuri, a member of the Senate Defense Committee, said that one cannot expect the Kennedy Amendment to be lifted completely until Chile clarifies who was involved in the murder of Orlando Letelier in Washington and until the guilty parties are punished," the report states.

Government Signs Drug Agreement With Peru

PY2310221790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1712 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Santiago, 23 Oct (EFE)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas today said that Chile and Peru have agreed to review the talks held on some of the clauses of the 1929 Treaty [under which Peru regained the Tarapaca Salt Mines] that have still not been implemented.

Vargas reported this upon his return from Lima, where he participated in the second diplomatic consultation to be held since the mechanism was created in 1989.

During his stay in Peru, Vargas and Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Marchand signed an administrative agreement to fight and prevent drug trafficking "because this is one of the worst scourges to affect our society."

Regarding the 1929 Treaty, Vargas said that the two governments agreed to continue to discuss the issue informally, to make "an accurate analysis of the pending matters and to report to the officials of the two countries.

He added that the two governments also agreed to hold a Mixed Chilean-Peruvian Commission meeting in April 1991 and that border affairs of interest to the towns of Arica and Tacna were also discussed.

Another issue that was also discussed referred to a project to fight and prevent terrorism.

Council for Narcotics Control Established

PY2310154090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The OFFICIAL GAZETTE reports today that the National Council for Narcotics Control [Consejo Nacional para el Control de los Estupefacientes] has been legally established through Decree 683 of 21 September 1990. This council will advise the president of the Republic on all subjects connected with the prevention and control of illegal narcotics use, the illegal production and transportation of narcotics or drugs, and other activities connected with these crimes.

The council will also carry out activities toward the treatment and medical and social recovery of drug addicts. The council will be presided over by the interior minister and will include the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, justice, education, and health; the director of the Investigative Police; representatives of the Armed Forces and the Carabineros; and others.

FPMR Releases Kidnapped Former Union Leader

PY2310193790 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] In a spectacular operation, an armed commando that claims to belong to the student squad of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] kidnapped Misael Galleguillos, the former secretary general of the National Labor Unions Confederation, from the Santiago National University, USACH. He was later released outside the USACH Law College with two fake bombs attached to his body. The spectacular operation began a little before 1100 this morning when Galleguillos was giving a class in the USACH Arts and Crafts College, in the Central Station District, west of Santiago.

Three armed terrorists suddenly broke into the classroom and kidnapped the teacher and former military regime union leader. They took him to the USACH Law College, in the Pio Nono District of downtown Santiago. The armed commando then chained Galleguillos to the college railings with two fake bombs attached to his body and several signs that said he was a member of the former National Information Center, CNI, and was responsible for the murder of union leader Tucapel Gimenez.

The criminals left a FPMR student squad sign, and fled in a yellow Citroen Visa with license plates No. GL-5826, which they later abandoned at 935 Caliche Street, Conchali District.

Members of the Special Operations Group, GOPE, arrived at the Law College and carefully checked Galleguillos in case one of the bombs was booby trapped. This caused a spectacular deployment and evacuation of the area around Galleguillos. Soon afterward Galleguillos was released and taken to the 11th Police Precinct in Providencia District, where he still being questioned by the police. Eduardo Morales, the USACH rector, arrived at the police station where he condemned the kidnapping and said he will release a communique in the next few hours. No one was harmed during the operation, and no one knows where the kidnappers are now.

Colombia

Drug Cartel Military Chief Reported Killed

PA2310144590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1420 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Bogota, 23 Oct (EFE)—Suspected drug trafficker Hernando Gaviria Gomez, military chief of the Medellin Cartel and cousin of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the leader of the drug cartel, died as a result of a joint action by the police and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) in Antioquia Department today.

DAS Director General Miguel Maza Marquez announced that Gaviria Gomez died in an armed clash early today on the Manantial farm, in Guarnia Municipality in central Colombia.

The action was part of Operation Apocalypse II against drug trafficking. Important documents were seized during the operation. According to the initial reports, the documents implicate the Medellin Cartel in several attacks and assassinations.

The death of Gaviria Gomez, also known as Abraham, comes 40 days after Gustavo de Jesus Gaviria Rivero, second in importance in the Medellin Cartel and also Pablo Escobar's cousin, was killed in a house in La Almeida neighborhood in Medellin.

Ochoa's Offer To Help Kidnap Victims Rejected

PA2310233690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The government has just rejected a request by [drug trafficker] Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez for facilities and guarantees, through a state of siege decree, that would enable him to move freely to help locate kidnapped people in the country.

Today at noon the government ruled out any possibility of offering special guarantees for Ochoa's safe conduct throughout the country. Former Ambassador to Spain Ramiro Andrade proposed that Ochoa mediate in behalf of the journalists kidnapped 50 days ago.

Government Minister Julio Cesar Sanchez Garcia emphatically said that the government cannot act against its own principles.

[Begin Sanchez recording] I must say that the government cannot give special treatment to anyone contravening the existing laws. Regardless of how noble the cause may be, the truth is that we must respect the legal order. Therefore, the government hopes that the journalists' release can be obtained without a violation of the legal order, which we must respect at all times. [end recording]

On another subject, Minister Sanchez offered to head a high- level commission, if necessary, to hold talks with the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, which has expressed its willingness to seek a political solution for the armed conflict and participate in the National Constituent Assembly.

[Begin Sanchez recording] I am sure that most Colombians are pleased to know that both sides are willing to work toward finding a solution as soon as possible. As government minister, I am prepared to do whatever I can in accordance with the policies and instructions received from the president of the Republic. [end recording]

Police Kill 6 Kidnappers, Release Former Mayor

PA2310184790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Valledupar—The police have killed six people in an operation that culminated with the rescue of [first name indistinct] Palacios, a cattleman and former Valledupar mayor, who had been kidnapped three weeks ago.

Palacios was rescued in a dangerous operation that culminated with the arrest of kidnappers Gerardo Payares and Luis Francisco Herrera Ardila and the killing of seven gang members, who had previously made contact with Palacios' family for ransom; however, the authorities had intercepted the communications.

In Bogota, the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] has broken up a gang of kidnappers controlled by a former policeman. The DAS killed two gang members and arrested two others in an operation conducted in southern Bogota, where authorities rescued a student who was kidnapped 40 days ago.

The aforementioned operation took place at 36th East Avenue and 89th South Street in (?Yomasa) neighborhood, near USME [not further identified]. There, the policemen killed two kidnappers and arrested a woman and the gang leader, who was later identified as a former policeman.

Authorities identified one of the dead as Alfonso Diaz Sanchez and the persons arrested as Edna Edith Cardoso

and Pedro Becerra Ruiz, a gang leader and a former National Police agent, respectively. The kidnappers had requested a 100 million-peso ransom to release the young man, who was rescued safe and sound.

During the DAS operation, the authorities seized automatic weapons, grenades, ammunition, and National Police uniforms.

Health Minister Navarro Reportedly Resigns

PA2310192290 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[From the "Confidential Report" segment]

[Text] Health Minister Antonio Navarro Wolff's resignation is practically a fact [so that he can run as a candidate for a seat in the Constituent Assembly]. The government has even decided to appoint another member of ther M-19 [19 April National Democratic Alliance Party] to replace him.

In other words, Navarro Wolff will reportedly be replaced by a fellow partymember. Two names are being mentioned as candidates: Camilo Gonzalez, who is the M-19 spokesman, or Vera Gave, an M-19 member of the Chamber of Deputies.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Discusses Democracy, Government

PY2410023690 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Oct 90 p 16

["Text" of interview with President Andres Rodriguez by Romualdo Izquierdo, reporter for the Spanish newspaper DIARIO 16; place and date not given]

[Text] [Izquierdo] What achievement are you proudest of after a year and a half of government?

[Rodriguez] If I had to stress some of the achievements during this period of government, I would mention the return to democracy, the rapprochement with neighboring countries, and the tremendous desire to cooperate and work with them, something that did not happen in the previous regime.

In the political field, we have established the basis for a strong democracy in Paraguay with approval of the electoral code. This electoral code is an instrument that has been freely agreed upon by all political parties with representatives in Congress.

In the economic sector, a free market system has been created without affecting the purchasing power of our currency, while maintaining its parity with the U.S. dollar. At the same time, we have abolished the multiple exchange system, which was a source of corruption within the administration, and have replaced it with a free, fluctuating exchange system, even for state enterprises.

[Izquierdo] You say that there are no funds for solving social problems; however, don't you think the defense sector budget—which accounts for 30 percent of the annual budget—is too large when compared with the health sector budget, which is only 2.7 percent?

[Rodriguez] An emergency budget has been approved for 1990 because we could not improvise, considering that the state institutions were not yet properly established.

I will give you an example. The Armed Forces also fulfill a role in the Ministry of Public Health and even in the Ministry of Education. Therefore, we could not reduce the Armed Forces budget without organizing—in the respective agencies—the services that they are now rendering.

If you analyze the budget that is being studied for 1990 you will see that the national defense budget has been reduced to 13.3 percent, which is less than 50 percent of the figure you mentioned.

[Izquierdo] Doesn't the fact that the president is a military man, as you are, hinder democratic transition at a time when society does not have confidence in the military because of their participation in the previous regime?

[Rodriguez] First, I do not believe that there is distrust. Second, Paraguayan political history cannot be measured by standards that apply to the dictatorships and democracies of other countries.

In Paraguay, dictatorships have normally had the support of political parties, while in other countries the military movements have excluded politicians from the government. There are very few cases in our history in which the military governed the country without the institutional support of a party. Therefore, one could also conclude that there is no confidence in the parties, but this has not been proven.

On the other hand, I believe that the people appreciate the sacrifice we, the military, are making to contribute to democracy in Paraguay. Therefore, I believe that the fact that I am a military man has strengthened the transition, rather than hindering it.

[Izquierdo] The people—one can hear them on the street—are a little disappointed with the current political and social situation because they believe that behind the "facelift," the same people remain in power. What do you have to say to this?

[Rodriguez] First, it should be made clear that discontent exists during any transition from an authoritarian to a democratic government. Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile are evidence of this.

This discontent could be explained by the naive perception of citizens that democracy resolves all kinds of conflicts and provides solutions to all social problems—disregarding our government's inheritance.

At the same time and in an effort to promote an opening of democracy, politicians introduce social grievances in their speeches without analyzing whether these grievances can be redressed during a democratic transition period.

Once a transition government is installed with politicians promising things that they cannot deliver, the opposition sets out to protest social problems, trying to demonstrate the government's inability to answer popular demands.

[Izquierdo] In one of your statements after the 2-3 February coup last year, you said that you are not a politician but a military man and that you will not remain in power after the transition period. Do you still believe this? Under what circumstances would you accept reelection?

[Rodriguez] I am not like those politicians who are liable to forget their promises. When I was elected president of the Republic in the May 1989 general elections, I said that one of my life's greatest satisfactions would be handing over the government in 1993 to a citizen elected in free, clean elections. I will do this. I am not, nor will I be, a candidate in 1993. My service to the Paraguayan people will end on that date.

[Izquierdo] If the "liberals" win the 1993 elections, would you, as a "Colorado," be willing to hand over the government to them?

[Rodriguez] Of course, there is no doubt of that. That is the rule of democracy. The election winner takes power.

[Izquierdo] Has the future of the democratic process been mortgaged by the fact that the change of regime was brought about by force? If they came about in different ways, what can the similarities be between the democratic transition processes in Spain and Paraguay?

[Rodriguez] The change of regime was imposed by force because that was the only way to bring about that change. You can ask any Paraguayan, and all of them, without fail, will tell you the same thing that I do.

That is why I can assure you that the armed movement, rather than mortgaging the future of democracy, is the cornerstone of that future.

On the other hand, I do not believe the Paraguayan process and the Spanish process are similar in terms of specifics. They developed in different situations and with different premises. If, at some time, intellectuals pointed out similarities, they did so while Stroessner was in power and on the premise that he would die in power, but he did not.

[Izquierdo] When the Communist Party was legalized in Spain, the allegation was made that a true transition to democracy could not otherwise be assured. In the case of Paraguay, will the Communist Party be legalized?

[Rodriguez] The authority to legalize or not to legalize the Communist Party is not vested in the executive branch. The Central Electoral Board, made up of members proposed by the various political parties and approved by the Chamber of Deputies, has the authority to do that. So, I cannot answer your question; however, I just want to tell you that democracy does not exist wherever a communist party is in power. So, saying that democracy is not possible without the Communist Party is a contradiction.

[Izquierdo] Do you believe that the Paraguayan media are acting conscientiously and responsibly?

[Rodriguez] I honestly believe they are. At the same time, I believe that the media are not free of faults that can be observed in the rest of society, from the political class all the way down to the most humble people. It would be desirable for the media to sometimes raise their sights to the loftiest objectives and not to dwell continuously on isolated matters, but perhaps we are asking them to do something that I do not know if I, myself, can do.

[Izquierdo] The media are bringing to light cases of corruption involving officials of the previous regime and others who still hold important positions in the new government. Isn't the president afraid that he can be "splashed" by some of them?

[Rodriguez] Absolutely not, I have no fear at all.

[Izquierdo] What is the significance of the Spanish king's visit to Paraguay? Do you believe it is a gesture of support for the Paraguayan democracy? Will any important agreement be signed?

[Rodriguez] The Spanish king's visit is indeed a significant event. It is very important for us because, for Latin America, Spain is the door to Europe, a Europe that is looking to the East to integrate itself and forget Latin America to some extent. Under these circumstances, Spain is the only guarantee that our interests will be looked after in the EEC. I, personally, would not want to give this visit any other significance, considering the king's personality and especially not to allow his image to be used for objectives beyond the intentions of the visit.

[Izquierdo] What do you see as the future for a possible Latin American integration, and for the continent as a common market? What role could Paraguay play in this process?

[Rodriguez] I believe integration is a necessity, a historical call by our people that will become reality. The leaders have taken notice of this situation, and we are promoting the process with all the political force we can muster.

Paraguay's role regarding this is fundamental because many of the specific projects being considered as part of the ideal of integration are necessarily subject to decisions Paraguay has to make.

For instance, studies for the Paraguay-Parana waterway involved several countries, all neighbors of Paraguay; nearly 75 percent of the project will technically be in Paraguayan territory. You can figure out for yourself the importance of Paraguay to materialization of the project.

Spanish Minister on Need To Strengthen Ties

PY2310170190 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
23 Oct 90 Special Supplement p 6

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez has said that bilateral relations "are being promoted at a very low level." He added that Spanish exports to Paraguay only amount to $8 million per year.

Following a working meeting at midday yesterday with Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, Fernandez Ordonez said: "We want to improve bilateral relations in all sectors."

He was optimistic that bilateral relations may be intensified in the next few months. He said: "If we wait awhile and if the Paraguayan minister accepts my invitation to visit Spain, I think we will soon achieve substantial results."

Bilateral commercial relations are very unbalanced considering that Paraguay exports goods worth some $20 million per year while imports have not surpassed 50 percent of that amount. This shows the deficit prevailing in our bilateral trade relations.

Fernandez Ordonez hinted that the lack of clear and specific projects has contributed to the lethargy that prevails in our bilateral relations. He noted the absence of a scale of priorities to intensify the financial and technical assistance to Paraguay that can be channeled through the Iberoamerican Cooperation Institute. He said: "We will analyze several aspects, projects, sectors, and opportunities."

Fernandez Ordonez said that King Juan Carlos' visit "will serve to promote more intense bilateral relations and to establish closer contacts than we have maintained so far."

He said that the bases have been laid, adding that he and his Paraguayan counterpart "discussed some cultural, financial, and other very interesting matters."

He said that if Paraguay wants to reach agreements with the EEC "we will try to promote them because we are in contact with this organization."

Fernandez Ordonez also referred to the political aspect of King Juan Carlos' visit. He said: "His visit is that of the democratic Spain to Paraguay, which is moving toward democracy with firm steps. This visit should be regarded above everything as a message that marks a firm beginning. That is, today we will take new steps toward increasing our bilateral relations."

He also said that President Rodriguez is expected to visit Spain, returning King Juan Carlos's visit to Paraguay.

Cooperation Agreements To Be Signed With Spain

PY2310213390 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
23 Oct 90 Special Supplement p 6

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said: "We have laid the foundations for the agreements that we want to implement." He spoke at the end of a working meeting yesterday with his Spanish counterpart Francisco Fernandez Ordonez.

Frutos Vaesken said: "Everything went well, and we laid the foundations for our future bilateral relations on the basis of the required exchange and cooperation agreements. We have outlined the work schedule," he added.

Frutos Vaesken announced that a technical mission will soon go to Spain to prepare for his visit. During Frutos Vaesken's visit, the Mixed Paraguayan-Spanish Commission will be created and the minister will prepare for President Rodriguez' visit to that country. It is expected that Rodriguez will soon return King Juan Carlos' visit to Paraguay. [passage omitted]

Congressmen Meet Soviet Counterparts in Uruguay

PY2310214990 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
23 Oct 90 p 16

[Text] Relations between our country and the Soviet Union are becoming increasingly foreseeable. Paraguayan congressmen have met with their Soviet counterparts and exchanged ideas in an attempt to open legislative and commercial relations between the two countries. The meeting took place during the 84th Interparliamentary Union conference held in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Colorado Party Deputies Carlos Galeano Perrone, Jose Martin Palumbo, and Oscar Facundo Insfran met with their Soviet counterparts Alexander Elisseyer, vice president of the Soviet Congress, and Vitaly V. Eveseyer, secretary of foreign affairs and a member of the Soviet legislative branch [names and titles as published].

Deputy Galeano Perrone reported right after the meeting that they discussed the possibility of establishing relations at the level of Congress. They spoke of trade relations between the Soviet Union and Paraguay, considering that our country produces foodstuffs and the Soviet Union is a highly industrialized country.

Galeano Perrone added that this was the second time they met with the Soviet congressmen. The first meeting was held in Buenos Aires while they were participating in a seminar on the modernization of Congress.

He said that during this time of opening, both in Paraguay and in the Soviet Union, congressmen should seek new markets where Paraguay can offer traditional export goods such as soybeans, meat, cotton, etc., where they

will obtain better prices than in the world market. In exchange, he said, the Soviet Union will export to Paraguay processed goods because the USSR is a highly industrialized country.

Galeano Perrone stated: "If this exchange is established, it will represent the first step toward diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, although the executive branch will have the final word on this because diplomatic relations are not within our jurisdiction."

He added that Paraguayan congressmen and businessmen will visit the Soviet Union to analyze the possibilities of a future market for our country.

He said that Soviet legislators expressed their satisfaction after the meeting with their Paraguayan counterparts. "We believe that through these contacts, relations with the Soviet Union will become easier," he concluded.

Police Repress 'Disorderly March' by Peasants

PY2410025090 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 23 Oct 90 p 12

[Text] A peaceful rally staged by workers and peasants at Plaza Uruguaya ended in a disorderly march toward the metropolitan cathedral. The incident took place when demonstrators decided to march outside the area established by the "Law on Areas Restricted for Demonstrations" which, according to the demonstrators, is only in force until 1900. The police repressed the demonstrators, who were forced to detour their march.

Led by leaders of the United Labor Federation (CUT), landless peasants and railway workers who have been on strike for the past week marched along Mariscal Estigarribia St. The march was intercepted two blocks later, but the crowd managed to break the police cordon. Members of the Fope [Special Operations Force], equipped with electronic shields and prods, intercepted the demonstrators in front of the National University Law School. The policemen used their weapons against the demonstrators and even made moves to fire their machine guns.

After struggling, arguing, and charging the Fope with violating the law on areas restricted for demonstrations, the workers and peasants turned and marched to the cathedral. Deputy Miguel A. Aquino was also present.

At the cathedral, the landless demanded that the government pay heed to their request for land. The railway workers, in turn, among other demands, asked for a minimum salary, the abrogation of Law 200 [banning strikes by public employees], and that persecution of the union end.

Venezuela

Joint Declaration Agreement Signed With Chile

PY2310230590 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Oct 90 p C 3

[Report by Ricardo Downey in Caracas]

[Text] Yesterday the Governments of Chile and Venezuela signed seven bilateral cooperation and integration agreements. The most important of these agreements lays the foundation for a complementary economic agreement that will go into effect by 1994. It will allow free circulation of goods, services, and products between the two countries.

This is set forth in the joint declaration that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin signed yesterday afternoon in the course of a formal ceremony held at the "Sol del Peru" [Peruvian Sun] Hall of the Miraflores presidential palace.

After signing the joint declaration President Aylwin held a news conference at the "Ayacucho" Hall of Government House, thus ending his official visit to Venezuela. He will remain in Venezuela today and tomorrow to participate in the fourth summit of the Rio Group presidents.

The joint declaration that the two presidents signed following their second working meeting on the afternoon of 10 October emphasizes the various aspects of the Chilean president's visit to Venezuela and sets forth the issues that Patricio Aylwin and Carlos Andres Perez discussed and the agreements that they reached in connection with these issues.

The joint declaration states that they "analyzed the main international developments and agreed that the thrust of democratic trends sprouting throughout the world recently has strengthened the principle of respect for the human being as the key element of society and has confirmed the unavoidable duty and peremptory need to reconcile economic development and social justice amid freedom and democracy."

The two presidents also "expressed their satisfaction over the atmosphere of peace" stemming from the policy of understanding implemented by the great powers, while "emphasizing their deep concern over the sensitive and critical situation in the Persian Gulf and reiterating their commitment to comply with all UN resolutions on the subject."

They reaffirmed that "international peace and security are based on the full enforcement of international law as set forth in the charters of the United Nations and the OAS." They also stressed "that a democratic system is a guarantee for the peoples' full exercise of sovereignty," and that the new status quo in Latin America "opens up prospects for dialogue, for regional joint efforts and integration, and for concerted actions at international forums."

The two presidents stated their willingness to bring together Latin American countries and the international community in an effort to help achieve greater political stability in Haiti.

The presidents of Chile and Venezuela also stated that they "have ascertained that it is necessary to urgently

strengthen regional institutions. They agreed on the need to reinforce the OAS, focusing especially on economic and social development. They also agreed on the need to preserve democracy and respect, and to protect human rights in the region."

On the subject of economic development, Patricio Aylwin and his Venezuelan counterpart Carlos Andres Perez "emphasized the need to broaden the regional integration process and to launch new strategies in the knowledge that Latin America's opening toward the rest of the world and its swift insertion in the world economy will lay the foundations for an effective regional development." The two presidents also stressed that the private sector must play an active role in this endeavor.

In connection with the foreign debt, the two presidents "voiced their governments' intention to meet their obligations in keeping with the principle of shared responsibility between debtors and creditors. They stressed the need to reactivate the economies of debtor countries, reestablishing the flow of credit to finance their development and to create conditions that will allow debtor countries to meet their financial obligations without delaying the fulfillment of burning social needs."

Aylwin and Perez agreed to promote multilateral international trade, to broaden the opening to world trends, and to work for an improved system of regulations that will guarantee developing countries equal access to the markets.

The two presidents emphasized the role of organizations like the Latin American Economic System, the Latin American Integration Association, and the Rio Group in the quest for Latin American integration. The two chief executives also voiced their satisfaction over the fact that Chile will join the Rio Group during the presidential summit that will begin in Caracas on 11 October.

Aylwin and Perez "called the U.S. President's Initiative for the Americas positive and voiced their hope that this initiative will lead to true commercial freedom, to the reduction of the foreign debt burden, and to a substantial increase in the flow of investments to Latin America."

The declaration that the presidents of Chile and Venezuela signed yesterday mentions seven accords that were signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries. These accords are in keeping with the new stage of the historical friendship between Chileans and Venezuelans.

The first of these agreements is a "memorandum of understanding on a permanent mechanism for political consultation that will periodically evaluate the implementation of commitments that have been acquired, will decide on new areas of cooperation, will serve to exchange viewpoints on regional and world issues, and will coordinate positions in multilateral forums."

The second agreement "lays the foundations for a complementary accord for expanded economic relations between Chile and Venezuela. This will be signed in April 1991. This agreement seeks to implement a program for commercial freedom. It will go into effect in June 1991, and it will be further improved by 31 May 1994, facilitating the free flow of goods, services, and products between both countries. The agreement also seeks to promote the coordination of economic policies linked to the equitable use of the market and to establish rules and regulations capable of making mutual trade stable and dynamic by encouraging the active participation of the private sector."

The third document is an "agreement for technical and scientific cooperation" that calls for a program to be coordinated by a group that will begin working in January 1991.

The fourth instrument is "an agreement to avoid double taxation on international maritime and air transportation."

The fifth agreement is a "basic cooperation accord for the development of telecommunications." To implement this agreement, the coordinating agencies of the two parties will meet during the first quarter of 1991.

The two countries also signed "a basic agreement for cultural integration that is intended to foster greater rapprochement and mutual understanding of the realities in the two countries."

The seventh and last document that was signed is a "three-year program for cultural integration and exchange that will begin in January 1991 and that will strengthen cultural and educational relations between the two countries."

The joint declaration states that the two presidents "voiced their satisfaction over the elimination of visas for diplomatic, official, and special passports" that was signed recently.

They expressed concern over drug trafficking "stating their governments' desire to sign, as soon as possible, an international cooperation agreement to prevent drug abuse and to struggle against the production and illegal trade of narcotics and psychotropic substances."

The two presidents expressed interest in signing, as soon as possible, a cooperation agreement between the Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute and Prochile [Institute for Export Promotion], and an animal health accord.

The two presidents also instructed the appropriate agencies to initiate talks to establish a short-term mechanism of cooperation in the field of mining.

Air Force Confirms Request for Argentine Planes

PA2410011290 Paris AFP in Spanish 0003 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Caracas, 19 Oct (AFP)—The Venezuelan Air Force (VAF) confirmed today its request for Argentinian Pucara aircraft. These planes will be used in the surveillance of the country's southern borders.

VAF Commander General Luis Monserrat said to journalists that the Air Force requires approximately $60 million to renew, repair, or replenish its equipment and carry out training programs.

Monserrat stressed that the Air Force needs the Pucara reconnaissance aircraft, and said that the government is considering purchasing 24 of these planes.

The Pucara aircraft are to be used to surveil the Brazilian and Colombian borders. There is growing interest in this matter in Caracas because of reports that hundreds of "garimpeiros" (Brazilian gold diggers) illegally enter the country's southern area and cause serious environmental damage to the Venezuelan Amazon.

"Our F-16 or Mirage bombers cannot watch over the borders effectively, and our small aircraft, like the Bronco, are worn out after 20 years of use," Monserrat stated.

"The border region—a vast jungle area with trees that are up to 30 meters high—has to be monitored by aircraft that can fly at low altitudes and speeds, with enough maneuverability and visibility, a certain amount of fire power, and good flight endurance, so that they can carry out different tasks simultaneously," stated the Venezuelan Air Force commander.

Country To Receive $680 Million in Loans

PA2310233890 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] There is good news for our country in the banner headlines of today's newspapers, which report that Venezuela signed documents with the World Bank for three loans totaling $680 million. The funds will be used to reform the financial sector and the state's public enterprises. The documents were signed by Shahid Husain, World Bank regional vice president for Latin America, and Deputy Treasury Minister Carlos Stark.

The breakdown of the loans is as follows: $300 million to reform the financial sector, $350 million to make adjustments in the public sector, and $30 million for a technical assistance project aimed at encouraging investment and strengthening public institutions. Moreover, $162.5 million, or one fourth the total amount of the two largest loans, will be used to reinforce operations that will reduce our country's foreign debt.

Guyana

Opposition Activists Found Not Guilty of Treason

FL2310205290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 23, CANA—Two opposition political activists accused of treason were freed Tuesday after Guyana Chief Justice Rudolph Harper found statements of confession attributed to them inadmissible as evidence. Harper told the court at the end of two trials within the trial and in the absence of the jury he was not satisfied, beyond reasonable doubt, that the statements were given freely and voluntarily by Bhoj Pertab Singh and Karran Persaud Deokarran. The two are activists in the People's Progressive Party (PPP).

The defence claimed that the men were tortured and forced to make the statements after being abducted by police on April 27. The state's case that the accused and others were involved in a plot to overthrow the Guyana Government by force rested heavily on the statements.

But with the statements being found inadmissible, special prosecutor Rex McKay informed the court the state will offer no evidence at this stage. The jury was then ordered to return formal verdicts of "not guilty" and the two accused, who had been in jail since May, last year, were set free.

Neville Worwsworth, the other accused, was freed last week after the state conceded that it had no prima facie case of treason against him.

President Desmond Hoyte told police officers recently concerns about a heavy reliance on statements of confession have been raised with him by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Keith Massiah.